



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026



CEO'S MESSAGE

**Dear Friends, Member Organizations, Donors, and Esteemed Stakeholders,
Warm greetings from the Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)!**



SANTOSH GUPTA

As we reflect on the month of June, I am delighted to share another chapter of meaningful progress and collective achievement. Driven by the power of collaboration, innovation, and community participation, ISRN continues to advance its mission of creating sustainable and inclusive development across the country.

One of the month's key milestones was the successful Social Stock Exchange & Cyber Security Awareness Workshop at NEISSR, Dimapur, organized in partnership with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the CyberPeace Foundation. The workshop brought together over 100 civil society leaders, equipping them with valuable insights into impact funding, governance, transparency, regulatory compliance, and cyber resilience, strengthening the capacity of organizations to thrive in an evolving digital landscape.

Our commitment to empowering farmers through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) also witnessed encouraging progress. Members of Shitladhaam Fed FPO received hands-on training in solar-powered cold storage systems and post-harvest management, enhancing their ability to reduce losses and improve market opportunities. Meanwhile, Kamlapur Federation FPO proudly represented sustainable agricultural practices at the Kharif District Workshop & Exhibition, demonstrating the growing potential of community-led farming initiatives. Our FPOs also actively participated in the live telecast of the PM-KISAN 23rd Instalment released by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, reinforcing our efforts to connect farmers with government welfare schemes and opportunities.

Across our development portfolio, we continued to make steady strides. Project SHE expanded its outreach by promoting awareness on adolescent health and menstrual hygiene, helping build healthier and more informed communities. Simultaneously, preparations gained momentum for Phase II of the High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS) Safety Awareness Campaign in partnership with BSES. We also made significant progress toward the launch of the Honasa Little Steps centres and the AI Labs for Future Skills Initiative, supported by HMD, with planning, infrastructure development, and implementation readiness well underway.

These accomplishments are a testament to the unwavering commitment of our partners, donors, member organizations, volunteers, and dedicated field teams. Your trust, collaboration, and shared vision continue to inspire us to reach new milestones and create lasting impact.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering communities, fostering innovation, and building a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future for all.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.

With warm regards,

Santosh Gupta

Chief Executive Officer

Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)

WORKSHOP REPORT

JUNE 16, 2026

Empowering Northeast NGOs

Social Stock Exchange & Cyber Security Awareness

A landmark one-day workshop at NEISSR, Dimapur brought together 100+ civil society leaders to build digital



100+
Participants



~50
NPO Represented



Dimapur,
Nagaland

Organized by ISRN - In collaboration with NEISSR Supported by NSE & CyberPeace Foundation

OVERVIEW

About the Workshop

On June 16, 2026, the North Eastern Institute of Social Sciences ,and Research (NEISSR), Chümoukedima, hosted a landmark one-day workshop organized by the Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN), with support from the National, Stock Exchange (NSE) and CyberPeace Foundation. The event brought together NGO leaders, development professionals, academicians, and students from across Northeast India to strengthen institutional capacities in two critical areas: accessing the **Social Stock Exchange** for sustainable impact funding, and building **Cyber Resilience** against the growing tide of digital threats.

AT A GLANCE



Date:
June 16, 2026



Venue:
NEISSR, Chümoukedima,
Dimapur, Nagaland



Organized by:
ISRN in collaboration with
NEISSR



Supported by:
NSE & CyberPeace
Foundation



Participants:
100+ from ~50 NPOS

WORKSHOP THEMES

TWO PILLARS OF THE WORKSHOP

MORNING SESSION

Social Stock Exchange & Impact Funding The morning sessions demystified the NSE Social Stock Exchange (SSE) – a SEBI-regulated platform enabling NGOs to raise funds transparently. Shri Vimal Bhattar (DGM, SEBI) delivered a comprehensive overview of eligibility, disclosure norms, and governance standards. Ms. Shiwani Mundhra (NSE) conducted a live online Demonstration of the SSE registration process.

Key Topics:

- SSE eligibility & registration walkthrough
- CSR & impact funding opportunities
- Governance, transparency & compliance
- Social impact measurement

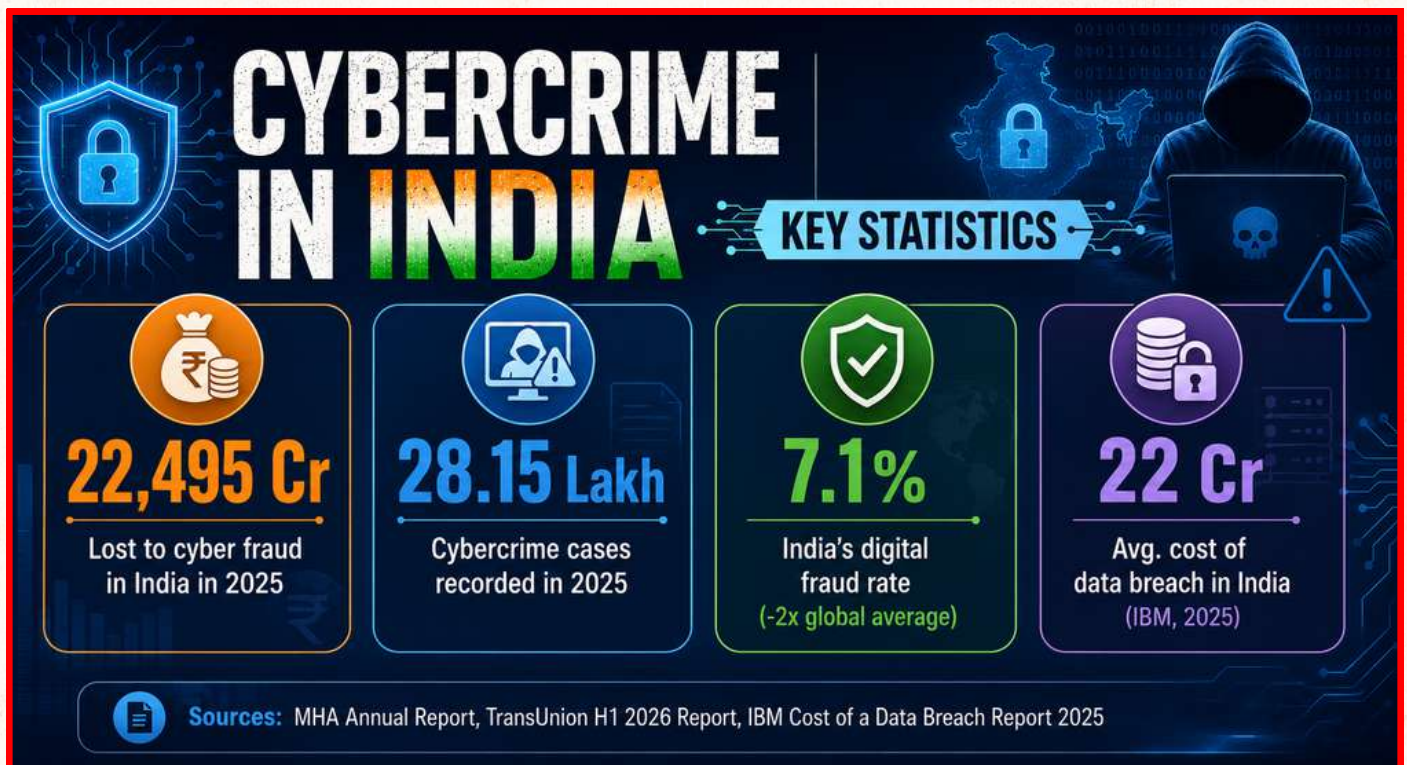
AFTERNOON SESSION

Cyber Security Awareness & Digital Resilience

The afternoon session, led by Ms. Anindita Mishra and Mr. Naman Shridhar of CyberPeace Foundation tackled urgent cybersecurity challenges facing NGOs. With India losing 22,495 crore to cyber fraud in 2025 alone – and NGOs increasingly targeted through CSR funding scams and digital Impersonation – the session equipped participants with practical tools to protect their organizations.

Key Topics:

- Phishing, UPI fraud & deepfake threats
- Digital arrest scams & CSR funding fraud
- DPDP Act 2023 & IT Act compliance
- Cyber hygiene & the "Golden Hour" rule (Helpline: 1930)



DISTINGUISHED GUESTS & SPEAKERS

Shri Vimal Bhattar
Deputy General Manager, SEBI

Guest of Honour — delivered a keynote on the SSE regulatory framework, eligibility norms, and SEBI's vision For NGO transparency.

Ms. Anindita Mishra & Mr. Naman Shridhar
Trainers, CyberPeace Foundation

Led the virtual cybersecurity awareness session, covering phishing, digital fraud, the DPDP Act, and practical cyber hygiene for NGOs.

Fr. Dr. C.P. Anto
Principal, NEISSR

Delivered the welcome address and highlighted the vital contributions of civil society organizations to Northeast India's social welfare.

Shri Santosh Gupta & Ashish Mansharamani
CEO & Associate Director, ISRN

Introduced the workshop, contextualized the SSE opportunity for Northeast NGOs, and encouraged Participants to explore CSR funding pathways.

Together, we are building stronger, more transparent, digitally secure, and sustainable organizations for a better Northeast and a stronger India.

— Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)

Workshop Outcomes at a Glance

- 100+ participants from ~50 NGOs across Northeast India equipped with SSE and cybersecurity knowledge
- Live SSE registration demonstration — multiple NGOs expressed intent to initiate registration
- Participants trained on DPDP Act 2023 compliance and data governance for NGOs
- Practical cyber hygiene tools shared — 2FA, password safety, QR code verification, Helpline 1930
- ISRN's NGO Clinic Podcast series recognized as a scalable model for continuous cyber awareness
- Covered by Moring Express and acknowledged by NSE Social Stock Exchange on official channels

GLIMPSES OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop was covered by the Morung Express (MEXN), Nagaland's leading newspaper, under the headline: *NE NGOs introduced to social stock exchange, cyber security tools at NEISSR*. The NSE Social Stock Exchange also acknowledged the event, noting the growing interest among Northeast nonprofits in leveraging SSE as a transparent platform for resource mobilization.

Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)

In collaboration with: NEISSR, Chümoukedima, Dimapur, Nagaland Supported by: National Stock Exchange (NSE) & CyberPeace Foundation





IN THE NEWS

The workshop was covered by the Morung Express (ME_xN), Nagaland's leading newspaper, under the headline: *NE NGOs introduced to social stock exchange, cyber security tools at NEISSR*. The NSE Social Stock Exchange also acknowledged the event, noting the growing interest among Northeast nonprofits in leveraging SSE as a transparent platform for resource mobilization.

NE NGOs introduced to social stock exchange, cyber security tools at NEISSR

CHÜMOUKEDIMA, JUNE 16 (ME_xN): Representatives of NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) from across North East India were introduced to the opportunities offered by the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) and emerging cyber security challenges during a one-day workshop organised by the North Eastern Institute of Social Sciences and Research (NEISSR) in collaboration with the India Social Responsibility Network (ISRN) at NEISSR, Chümoukedima, on June 16.

The workshop brought together NGO representatives, development professionals, academicians, and experts to strengthen institutional capacities in cyber security, governance, transparency, and sustainable resource mobilization.

In his welcome address, Dr Fr CP Anto, Principal of NEISSR, highlighted the contribution of NGOs and CSO to social welfare, community development, peace-building, and sustainable progress. He also reiterated NEISSR's com-

mitment to social responsibility and professional excellence.

Introducing the workshop, Ashish Mansharamani, Associate Director of ISRN, underscored the growing importance of cyber security for organizations that increasingly rely on digital platforms for communication, fundraising, and programme management. He also highlighted the Social Stock Exchange as a transparent platform that connects social organisations with potential donors and investors.

Santosh Gupta, Chief Executive Officer of ISRN, encouraged organisations from the North East to explore opportunities through Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives and the Social Stock Exchange while maintaining ethical governance and accountability.

A key technical session was delivered by Vimal Bhat, Deputy General Manager, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), who provided an overview of the Social Stock Exchange and its regulatory framework. He explained the

platform's eligibility criteria, disclosure norms, governance standards, and compliance requirements, while highlighting recent reforms aimed at improving accessibility for not-for-profit organizations.

Participants also attended a virtual demonstration on the SSE registration process conducted by Shiwani Mundra, covering documentation requirements, compliance obligations, and governance standards.

The workshop further featured a virtual cyber security session by Anindita Mishra and Naman Shridhar of CyberPeace, who discussed emerging threats such as phishing attacks, malware, data breaches, and online fraud, while sharing practical measures to strengthen cyber resilience.

According to a press release from NEISSR, the workshop served as a platform for knowledge sharing and capacity building, while highlighting the importance of transparency, accountability, digital security, and sustainable fundraising in the social sector.

From the Stage to the Headlines : Representing ISRN with Purpose

ISRN'S MOMENT OF PRIDE



From the ISRN CEO's Desk to the National Stage : Speaking for Social Impact

PROJECT SHE

(Sanitation, Health and Empowerment)

ISRN continued community mobilisation efforts under Project SHE, implemented with the support of John Snow India Private Limited (JSIPL), by organizing seven "Baatein Ghar Ghar Ki Sammelan" sessions across project villages in Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh. The sessions brought together parents, caregivers, adolescents, School Management Committee members and other community stakeholders to strengthen collective responsibility towards adolescent health and well-being.

Building on the awareness created during previous months, the June sessions focused on reinforcing positive practices related to menstrual hygiene management, nutrition and anaemia prevention. Facilitators encouraged open dialogue on social norms, myths and misconceptions surrounding menstruation while promoting the importance of supportive family environments for adolescent girls. The discussions witnessed active participation from parents and caregivers, many of whom shared their experiences and expressed a greater willingness to discuss menstrual health and nutrition within their households. Community members also acknowledged the importance of ensuring access to hygienic menstrual products, safe disposal practices and nutritious diets to improve adolescent health outcomes.

The sessions further emphasized the role of families and communities in sustaining behavioural change beyond schools by supporting healthy practices, encouraging regular consumption of iron-rich foods and strengthening linkages with available government health services.

Through these continued community engagement efforts, Project SHE is fostering a supportive ecosystem where adolescents are better informed, families are more engaged and communities are increasingly taking ownership of adolescent health and menstrual hygiene initiatives.



ISRN FPOS PARTICIPATE IN LIVE TELECAST

of PM-KISAN 23rd Instalment Release

All Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) promoted by ISRN actively participated in the live telecast of the release of the 23rd instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme on June 20, 2026.

The event was led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, during which over ₹18,880 crore was disbursed directly to more than 9.44 crore eligible farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), with each farmer receiving ₹2,000.

To mark this significant occasion, ISRN FPO members and farmers gathered at their respective offices and collectively watched the live broadcast. The event served as an opportunity to enhance awareness about government support initiatives and strengthen the connection between farmers and national agricultural policies. The participation of ISRN FPOs reflects their continued engagement in government-led programs and their commitment to ensuring that farmers remain informed, empowered, and connected to various welfare schemes.



KAMLAPUR FED FPO PARTICIPATION in Kharif District Workshop & Exhibition 2026-27

Kamlapur Federation Farmer Producer Organization, an FPO formed & promoted by ISRN with the support of SFAC actively participated in the Kharif Janpadiya Goshthi & Exhibition **2026-27**, held on **16 June 2026**.

The event aimed to promote agricultural development, natural farming practices, and farmer welfare initiatives at the district level. As part of the program, the FPO set up a dedicated stall at the Natural Farming Workshop and Extension Fair, where it showcased its range of products, sustainable agricultural practices, and farmer-led initiatives. The stall attracted significant attention from farmers, government officials, and other key agri-stakeholders, creating a platform for meaningful interaction and knowledge exchange.

Key Impact Highlights:

- Reached and engaged with over 200 farmers during the event
- Promoted awareness on natural farming practices and FPO activities
- Facilitated new market linkages and generated business inquiries
- Achieved on-the-spot sales and product promotion worth approximately ₹40,000
- Enhanced visibility and recognition of the FPO at the district level

The participation proved to be an excellent opportunity for strengthening outreach, promoting sustainable agriculture, and building market connections. It further reinforced the FPO's commitment to enhancing farmer income through collective action and environmentally responsible farming practices.



SHITLADHAAM FED FPO FARMERS TRAINED

on Solar-Based Cold Storage and Post-Harvest Management

Farmers associated with Shitladhaam Fed Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) actively participated in a specialized training program focused on solar-based cold storage systems and scientific handling of fruits and vegetables.

The training aimed to enhance farmers' understanding of post-harvest management practices and reduce losses through improved storage techniques. During the session, participants were introduced to the functioning and benefits of solar-powered cold storage units, particularly their role in ensuring energy-efficient and sustainable preservation of perishable produce.

Farmers also received hands-on guidance on grading, sorting, packaging, and maintaining optimal storage conditions to retain quality and extend shelf life. As part of the exposure, a field visit to a cold storage facility was organized, where farmers observed real-time operations and practical applications of storage systems. This experiential learning helped them connect theoretical knowledge with on the ground practices.

The initiative has strengthened farmers' capacity to manage post-harvest produce more effectively, enabling them to minimize losses, improve product quality, and access better market opportunities





HIGH VOLTAGE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (HVDS) Safety Awareness Campaign

"सुरक्षित घर – सुरक्षित जीवन"

Phase II : Building Capacity for Safer Communities in South Delhi

Following the successful implementation of Phase I, the Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN), in partnership with BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), has initiated the preparatory phase for Phase II of the High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS) Safety Awareness & Risk Reduction Campaign across identified high-risk communities in Delhi.

As part of the pre-launch activities, a comprehensive Project Orientation, Induction and Capacity Building Programme was conducted for the project team and community volunteers at the ISRN office. Technical experts from BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) led the sessions, equipping participants with practical knowledge on electrical safety, community engagement approaches, field implementation protocols, and hazard identification.

Preparation Highlights

- Project Orientation & Volunteer Induction completed
- Technical training conducted by BSES safety experts
- Live demonstration on the installation and functioning of Residual Current Circuit Breakers (RCCBs)
- Community engagement and household outreach strategies finalised
- Digital data collection and reporting mechanisms introduced
- Detailed implementation plan and field deployment schedule prepared

The Awareness Campaign Focuses on:

- Household-level electrical safety awareness
- Community mobilisation and risk mapping
- IEC-based safety communication
- Hot-spot mapping and reporting
- School-based electrical safety sessions

The campaign is scheduled to commence from July 2026 onwards, covering approximately 4,500 households across identified high-risk locations in the BRPL service area.

Through strong community participation and preventive awareness, ISRN and BRPL aim to promote safer electrical practices, reduce accident risks, and build resilient communities under the campaign theme.

Campaign on High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS) Safety Awareness and Risk Reduction in Delhi



Project Orientation



Empowering Communities. Preventing Risks. Creating Safer Neighbourhoods.

AI LABS FOR FUTURE SKILLS | HMD

The AI Labs for Future Skills Initiative, implemented by ISRN in partnership with HMD, continued to advance during June 2026 with a focus on implementation readiness and programme planning.

During the month, preparatory activities were strengthened through detailed implementation planning, technical coordination, and finalisation of operational frameworks for the upcoming AI Labs. Curriculum design and learning modules were further refined to ensure an engaging, hands-on approach that encourages innovation, critical thinking, and digital competency among students. Coordination with key stakeholders for the continued to support seamless project execution, while procurement planning and infrastructure readiness activities progressed in line with the project timeline.

With foundational preparations nearing completion, the initiative is well-positioned for the rollout of AI-enabled learning spaces that will equip students with future-ready skills and foster a culture of innovation, creativity, and technology-led learning.

Way Forward

The project will move into the implementation phase with the establishment of AI Labs, installation of equipment, and commencement of student and teacher engagement programmes in the coming months.

The banner features the HMD logo at the top left and the ISRN logo at the top right. The main title 'AI LAB SETUP PROJECT' is prominently displayed in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, the subtitle 'TRANSFORMING CM SHRI SCHOOLS INTO DIGITAL AND INNOVATIVE FUTURE-READY LEARNING SPACES' is written in green. A central graphic shows a hand holding a glowing blue sphere with 'AI' on it, surrounded by four hexagonal icons: 'DIGITAL LITERACY' (orange), 'INNOVATION & CREATIVITY' (green), 'FUTURE-READY STUDENTS' (blue), and 'LEARN INNOVATE INSPIRE' (white). A dark blue box on the left contains the text 'Empowering students. Enabling teachers. Building a smarter tomorrow.' with a brain icon. At the bottom, a row of six icons represents the project's goals: Hands-on Learning, 21st Century Skills, Practical Exposure, Teacher Enablement, Strong Digital Infrastructure, and Sustainable Impact for Schools.

HMD

AI LAB SETUP PROJECT

TRANSFORMING CM SHRI SCHOOLS INTO DIGITAL AND INNOVATIVE FUTURE-READY LEARNING SPACES

AI

LEARN INNOVATE INSPIRE

DIGITAL LITERACY

INNOVATION & CREATIVITY

FUTURE-READY STUDENTS

Empowering students. Enabling teachers. Building a smarter tomorrow.

Hands-on Learning

21st Century Skills

Practical Exposure

Teacher Enablement

Strong Digital Infrastructure

Sustainable Impact for Schools

KNOWLEDGE HUB

Polish Your Netiquette! Downloading and Keeping Your Computer Safe

Introduction

In this digital age, developing good netiquette practices and ensuring your computer's and personal data's safety is crucial. This chapter will delve into the importance of understanding netiquette, avoiding piracy and illegal downloads, keeping your computer secure, and the significance of backing up your important files.

Understanding Netiquette

Netiquette, short for internet etiquette, refers to the proper behaviour and manners one should exhibit while engaging with others online. By understanding and practising netiquette, you contribute to a positive and respectful online environment.

Key points we need to keep in mind while we are online include:

- Use appropriate language: Avoid using offensive or inflammatory language when communicating online.
- Be respectful: Treat others online with the same level of respect and courtesy that you would in person.
- Avoid spamming: Refrain from sending spam emails or messages, as they can be annoying and intrusive.
- Respectful Communication: All or any communication over cyberspace must be done with the utmost respect towards the other person's thoughts, beliefs and ideas. It is important to use appropriate language, avoid offensive or inflammatory remarks, and refrain from cyberbullying or harassing others.
- Use of Emoticons and Symbols: Using emoticons and symbols can help convey tone and emotions in online conversations, reducing the chances of misunderstandings.
- Clear and Concise Communication: Students should use clear and concise language, avoiding excessive use of jargon or abbreviations that may hinder effective communication.

 **In case of cybercrime:**

National Helpline: 1930 |  cybercrime.gov.in

CyberPeace Helpline: 9570000066 |  Helpline@cyberpeace.net

AVOIDING PIRACY AND ILLEGAL DOWNLOADS

Piracy and illegal downloads violate copyright laws, expose your computer to malicious software, and compromise your personal information. Educate students about the following:

Copyright Laws: The importance of Intellectual property rights should be inculcated, and the concepts of copyright and the importance of respecting intellectual property rights should be discussed among peers focusing on the legal consequences of piracy and illegal downloads.

Legitimate Sources: You should obtain digital content, such as music, movies, and software, from authorised and legal sources to support content creators and ensure you are not inadvertently downloading malware.

Web 3.0: You should be aware of the developments in the era of Web 3.0 and understand the IPR related to NFTs and other blockchain-generated creatives to respect the rights of the creators.

Keeping Your Computer and Data Safe

A secure computer and protected data are essential for maintaining privacy and preventing cyber threats. Make sure to inculcate the following practices:

- **Installing Antivirus Software:** Use reputable antivirus software to protect your computer from viruses, malware, and other security threats.
- **Regular System Updates:** One must understand the significance of installing operating system updates and patches promptly to address vulnerabilities and improve overall security.
- **Strong Passwords:** One must learn how to create strong, unique passwords for their devices and online accounts, emphasising the use of a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols.
- **Firewalls and Network Security:** Understand and discuss the role of firewalls in preventing unauthorised access to your computer or network. You must also keep in mind the latest developments in the field of cybersecurity to better deploy safety mechanisms.
- **Backing Up Important Files:** Backing up data ensures that important files are not lost in case of hardware failure, malware attacks, or accidental deletions. Students should learn about the importance of data backups.
- **External Storage Devices:** You should learn various methods of backing up data, such as using external hard drives, USB flash drives, or cloud storage services.

Conclusion

By understanding netiquette, avoiding piracy and illegal downloads, keeping computers secure, and backing up important files, you can enhance your online experience and protect your personal information. These practices contribute to a safer and more responsible digital presence, fostering a positive online community.

MODERATING FOMO / YOLO ONLINE

Introduction

It's crucial for children to have the knowledge and abilities to navigate the internet environment in today's linked society responsibly. Unfortunately, they may occasionally be exposed by the internet to improper material that is potentially hurtful, offensive, or unlawful. In this chapter, we'll go into the issue of running into inappropriate websites online and look at useful coping mechanisms.

Content Understanding Netiquette

Social media platforms give us a window into the lives of others by highlighting highlights and accomplishments that have been carefully selected. However, the continual viewing of these highlight reels might induce feelings of inferiority, worry, and sadness. We must keep ourselves and our kids informed about the potential harm that excessive social media use can cause to mental health.

Setting Boundaries for Social Media Use

To maintain a healthy relationship while using social media, it's important to establish and respect boundaries. One should:

- Set specific time limits for social media use each day.
- Avoid checking social media first thing in the morning or before bed.
- Designate tech-free zones or times during the day, such as during meals or family activities.
- Be mindful of emotional well-being while engaging with social media.

Prioritizing Offline Activities

While social media can be entertaining and informative, it's essential to prioritise offline activities and real-life connections. One should:

- Engage in hobbies, sports, or other activities that bring them joy and fulfilment.
- Spend quality time with family and friends in person.
- Practice mindfulness, engage in self-reflection, or participate in activities that promote mental well-being.

Finding a Healthy Balance – Steps to Achieve Balance:

- Practice self-awareness and regularly assess how social media affects your mood and overall well being.
- Cultivate a positive online environment by following accounts that inspire and uplift them.
- Encourage digital detoxes or breaks from social media to recharge and focus on other aspects of life.
- Seek support from trusted friends, family, or professionals if you feel overwhelmed or experience.
- Negative emotions related to social media.

Conclusion

Managing FOMO/YOLO online is key to maintaining a healthy relationship with social media and protecting mental well-being. By setting digital boundaries, balancing online and offline life, and using social media mindfully, individuals can enhance their overall well-being and quality of life.

A Monsoon Agenda for Delhi's Air, Water & Green Cover

Why the weeks before the rains hold the key to a healthier and more climate-resilient capital

Every year, Delhi welcomes the monsoon with both relief and concern. While the rains provide respite from extreme summer heat, they also reveal the city's environmental challenges—waterlogged roads, overflowing drains, poor rainwater harvesting, and the looming return of winter smog.

Rather than viewing the monsoon as just a seasonal change, Delhi must see it as a critical window to prepare for the months ahead. With nearly 80% of its annual average rainfall of 612 mm received during the southwest monsoon, the city has a valuable opportunity to recharge groundwater, strengthen urban resilience, and reduce environmental risks.

Yet rapid urbanization causes much of this rainwater to be lost as runoff instead of being conserved. The actions taken during these few weeks by governments, communities, institutions, businesses, and citizens can significantly influence Delhi's air quality, water security, & environmental health for the rest of the year.

Plant for Survival, Not for Ceremony

Every monsoon, Delhi witnesses large-scale plantation drives, but many saplings do not survive beyond a few months. The challenge is not planting trees; it is ensuring their long-term care. Communities that regularly water, protect, and monitor saplings often see them grow into valuable sources of shade

and cooling, while plantations without follow-up frequently fail. The real measure of success is tree survival, not the number planted.

Delhi should prioritize native species such as Neem, Jamun, Amaltas, Pilkhan, and Arjun, which are well suited to the local climate and support biodiversity.

Schools, resident welfare associations, market associations, and youth groups can become custodians of neighborhood plantations because sustained community ownership is often far more effective than one-time campaigns.

Make Every Rooftop Part of Delhi's Water Infrastructure



Delhi's water story is a paradox. While groundwater depletion dominates the summer, millions of litres of monsoon rainwater are lost as runoff instead of replenishing aquifers. The city cannot rely solely on external water sources—it must capture the rain that falls within its own boundaries.

Rainwater harvesting is a proven, cost-effective solution. Rooftop harvesting, recharge pits, and the restoration of lakes and wetlands can significantly improve groundwater recharge and reduce water scarcity. As the Central Ground Water Board has repeatedly highlighted Delhi's groundwater stress, scaling up these measures is both urgent and practical. By embracing "sponge city" principles and reviving traditional water conservation practices, Delhi can transform the monsoon from a seasonal challenge into a long-term water security solution.

Waste Management Begins at Home

No environmental conversation about Delhi is complete without acknowledging its landfill sites. Mountains of waste at Ghazipur, Bhalswa and Okhla have become symbols of an urban challenge that has grown over decades. According to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the city generates over 11,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste every day.

A significant share of this waste is biodegradable. When kitchen waste is mixed with plastics and other materials, composting becomes difficult, recyclable materials lose value and landfills continue to expand. The solution begins with something remarkably simple: segregating waste at source.

Separating wet and dry waste allows organic material to become compost instead of methane producing landfill waste. It also improves recycling efficiency and reduces pressure on disposal sites. Equally important is recognizing the contribution of waste pickers, whose work already diverts substantial quantities of recyclable material away from landfills. Integrating them more effectively into formal waste management systems would strengthen both environmental outcomes and livelihoods.

Winning the Battle against Winter Starts in the Monsoon

Every winter, Delhi's air quality reaches hazardous levels, but the foundations of the crisis are laid months earlier. Studies by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) show that winter pollution results from a combination of vehicle emissions, road and construction dust, industrial activity, crop-residue burning, and stagnant weather conditions.

The months before winter offer the best opportunity for action. Consistent dust control at construction sites, better road cleaning, stronger public transport, stricter vehicle emission enforcement, and sustained support for alternatives to crop-residue burning can significantly reduce pollution. These solutions are already well known the real need is timely implementation, inter-agency coordination, and accountability.

From Environmental Awareness to Civic Responsibility

Delhi's environmental future cannot rest on government efforts alone or one-time awareness campaigns. Lasting change requires active participation from citizens, communities, businesses, and civil society. Across the city, Resident Welfare Associations, schools, volunteers, and NGOs have demonstrated that community led initiatives from waste segregation and composting to park restoration and rainwater harvesting deliver lasting results.

CSR investments can further strengthen these efforts by supporting long term maintenance, innovation, and local institutions rather than short-term campaigns. Government agencies should enable greater citizen participation through platforms for monitoring plantation survival, reporting illegal dumping, restoring water bodies, and contributing to neighbourhood planning. Delhi already has the policies and expertise it now needs consistent implementation, strong partnerships, and sustained public engagement.



A Monsoon Agenda for Every Citizen

The environmental challenges facing Delhi can often seem overwhelming. Yet meaningful change begins with practical actions that are well within the reach of individuals and communities. This monsoon, every household can commit to planting and nurturing at least one native tree. Resident Welfare Associations can inspect and repair rainwater harvesting systems before the peak rains arrive. Schools can introduce simple composting units and strengthen environmental education through hands-on activities. Market associations can improve waste segregation and reduce the use of single use plastics. Construction companies can demonstrate compliance with dust-control measures instead of waiting for enforcement notices. None of these actions, by themselves, will transform Delhi overnight.

Together, however, they create the foundation for a healthier city one that conserves water instead of wasting it, expands green cover instead of losing it, and addresses pollution before it becomes a public health emergency.

A Shared Agenda for a Resilient Delhi

Delhi's environmental challenges mirror those facing cities across India, making it a potential model for urban climate resilience. The monsoon is more than a respite from summer—it is a critical opportunity to strengthen the city's environmental future.

Governments must enforce environmental regulations, businesses should invest in sustainable innovation and long-term CSR, civil society must mobilize communities, and citizens need to adopt sustainable practices. Protecting green cover, harvesting rainwater, managing waste responsibly, and reducing pollution at its source can make Delhi healthier, more resilient, and better prepared for winter. The monsoon will arrive regardless. The choice is whether Delhi lets another season pass as a missed opportunity—or uses it to build a cleaner, greener, and more climate-resilient city for future generations.

Ashish Mansharamani Associate Director, ISRN, works on climate resilience, sustainable development, CSR and community-led environmental initiatives across India.

ISRN believes that having the right to live in equality is something each human deserves and with support from esteemed people like you, we are transforming the lives of thousands of fellow citizens. We have held workshops and training sessions for more than 840 Member Organisations, fostering a symbolic growth system

We genuinely appreciate all of your help, love, and support for ISRN.

We humbly ask that you continue to provide us with support, advice, and invaluable assistance that will enable us to ensure that each and everyone is empowered to grow and flourish in their own unique way.

Please scan the QR code to donate towards these causes, as your small contribution will help maintain smiles on million faces.



Scan the QR code to
CONTRIBUTE

Thank you for reading!



INDIAN SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY NETWORK

A-85, GROUND FLOOR, EAST OF KAILASH, NEW DELHI - 110065

Contact no.: 011-4347 4545, +91-99991 09271

Email- info@isrn.in , communications@isrn.in



isrnnewdelhi



www.isrn.in

