J&K's opposition dilemma over statehood; Politics of posturing or principles?

As Jammu and Kashmir continues to face heightened security challenges and political uncertainty, the response from the region's major political players reflects more caution than conviction. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's statement distancing the National Conference (NC) from the Congress-led protests planned from August 9 reveals a deeper political calculus that transcends mere timing or parliamentary decorum.

By stating that his party will refrain from agitation until the Parliament session concludes, Abdullah appears to project patience and responsibility. However, it also hints at NC's strategic ambiguity—an effort to avoid open confrontation with the BJP-led central government. This posture suggests a desire for tacit understanding with the Centre, perhaps to keep political doors ajar ahead of any future reconfiguration in the Union Territory's administrative structure, especially regarding statehood.

The Congress, in contrast, has opted for visible mobilization, announcing district-wide protests across J&K. While their intent appears combative, their isolation in this move exposes a fractured opposition. If statehood and restoration of democratic rights were truly shared priorities among regional parties, a united front would have been the logical response. Instead, what we see is a deliberate distancing by the NC, PDP, and even Sajad Lone's People's Conference—each seemingly pursuing individual political strategies with an eye on BJP's growing clout.

Mehbooba Mufti's recent visit to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha—though presented as a courtesy call—has raised eyebrows and added to the perception that PDP too is softening its stance. These gestures collectively reflect a subdued opposition landscape, where tactical silence seems to outweigh assertive advocacy.

The broader concern here is that public sentiment around critical issues like statehood, security, and governance might be sacrificed at the altar of political convenience. With no cohesive opposition vision or alignment, the Centre faces little resistance in shaping J&K's future unilaterally.

Unless regional parties prioritize collective interest over competitive appeasement, their relevance in the narrative of J&K's democratic restoration may continue to diminish. The people of the Union Territory deserve clarity, courage, and unity—not calculated silence.

Golden Yug
Beyond Computer science
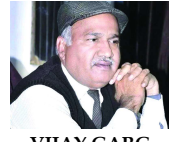
VIJAY GARG

While computer science forms the bedrock of our digital world, its true impact extends far "beyond computer science" itself, permeating and revolutionizing nearly every other field imaginable. This widespread influence can be broadly understood through a few key lenses:

1. Computational Thinking as a Universal Skill:
Computational thinking, which involves breaking down complex problems, recognizing patterns, abstracting details, and designing algorithms, isn't just for programmers. It's a valuable skillset applicable across diverse domains:
* Healthcare: Optimizing hospital workflows, analyzing patient data for disease diagnosis and treatment, drug discovery, and medical imaging.

* Supply Chain Management: Designing efficient routes, predicting supply and demand, and managing inventory.
* Agriculture: Strategizing planting, crop rotation, herd management, irrigation, and pest control.
* Space Exploration: Planning missions, calculating trajectories, and analyzing satellite data.
* Energy Industry: Optimizing energy distribution and designing green energy solutions.
* Meteorology: Simulating and predicting weather patterns.
* Criminal Justice: Forensic investigations, legal proceedings, and data analysis for crime prevention.
* Environmental Conservation: Analyzing ecological data, tracking wildlife, and developing habitat preservation strategies.
* Finance and Business Intelligence: Data-based strategy, risk assessment, and market analysis.
* Education: Designing personalized learning tools and enhancing problem-solving across subjects.

2. Direct Applications in Other Sciences (and Beyond):
Computer science isn't just a tool; it's a fundamental partner in scientific discovery and practical innovation:
* Biology and Medicine (Computational Biology/Bioinformatics):
* Data Analysis: Handling massive datasets from genomics (DNA sequencing), proteomics (protein structures), and gene expression.
* Modeling and Simulation: Creating virtual models of biological systems to understand their behavior, from molecules to organs.
* Drug Discovery: Virtual screening of compounds, predicting drug efficacy and safety.
* Medical Imaging: Processing and interpreting X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs.
* Diagnosis and Treatment: Identifying disease patterns, predicting health issues, and even enabling robotic surgery.
* Physics and Chemistry: Complex simulations of atomic and subatomic interactions, material science, and quantum computing research.
* Engineering: Designing and simulating complex systems, optimizing processes, and analyzing structural integrity.
* Social Sciences (Computational Social Science):
* Analyzing Digital Footprints: Understanding

human behavior, societal trends, and group dynamics through social media interactions and online activities.
* Network Analysis: Studying connections between individuals and groups, and information flow.
* Behavioral Modeling: Predicting and simulating human behavior in various contexts (e.g., economics, opinion dynamics).
* Addressing Societal Challenges: Tracking misinformation, understanding social movements, and informing policy decisions.
* Humanities: Digital humanities projects involving text analysis, historical data visualization, and cultural heritage preservation.
* Arts and Design: Generative art, computational design, animation, and special effects in film.

3. The Transformative Power of AI and Machine Learning:
Artificial Intelligence, a subfield of computer science, is particularly impactful in non-CS domains:
* Healthcare: AI-powered diagnostics, personalized treatment plans, drug development, and predicting disease outbreaks.

* Marketing: Analyzing consumer behavior, targeted advertising, and AI-powered chatbots.
* Agriculture: Optimizing crop yields, precision farming, and livestock monitoring.
* Geology: Improving sea-level rise predictions, analyzing seismic data, and understanding subterranean conditions.
* Finance: Algorithmic trading, fraud detection, and risk management.
* Law: Legal research, contract analysis, and predicting case outcomes.
* Education: Personalized learning platforms, intelligent tutoring systems, and automated grading.
* Customer Service: AI chatbots and virtual assistants.
In essence, computer science, and particularly computational thinking and AI, provides a powerful set of tools and a new way of approaching problems that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. It enables us to process vast amounts of data, automate complex tasks, simulate intricate systems, and uncover insights that were previously impossible to achieve, driving innovation and progress across all facets of society.

International Tiger Day - Protecting the Majestic Big Cats

VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

World Tiger Day is celebrated every year on July 29th as a way to raise awareness about this magnificent but endangered big cat. Don't we think Hunting and killing of animals has become a form of recreation. Murdering humans is considered a crime. But killing and wiping out an entire genre is hardly given consideration. Like forests, wildlife is also a national resource, which not only helps us in maintaining the ecological balance but is also beneficial from economic, recreational and aesthetic points of view. It was a time when human interference was minimum the number of wild animals was quite high and there was no problem of their protection or conservation. But, with the expansion of agriculture, settlement, industrial and other

developmental activities and mainly due to greed of man, the number of wild animals are gradually decreasing day by day. We must understand that the wildlife is a precious gift God has given to this planet. The term 'wildlife' not only caters to wild animals but also takes into account all undomesticated lifeforms including birds, insects, plants, fungi and even microscopic organisms. For maintaining a healthy ecological balance on this earth, animals, plants and marine species are as important as humans. Hunting has tradition and the support of very powerful people on its side and with their influence hunting has been left untouched by legislation - the Protection of Animals Act only covers captive and domestic animals. High officials, who are supposed to be the guardians of law, often abuse their powers to shield the rich and powerful.
Our country is unique in having a significant number of tigers in the wild, in spite of growing population and resource extraction pressures on their habitat. Tigers are the heritage of our country, evoked in the vedas, puranas and many other literature for their unparalleled strength and aesthetic beauty. The global wild tiger population is estimated to be around 5,574 individuals, which is a 74% increase since 2010. This is

awesome news for conservation efforts.India is home to a third of the global tiger population andIndia's tiger population is currently estimated to be around 3,682, based on the latest All India Tiger Estimation report from 2022. This number reflects a commendable annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum. Madhya Pradesh leads the pack with 785 tigers, followed by Karnataka with 563, and Uttarakhand with 560.
The tiger population is rapidly declining because of many reasons. India reported 628 tiger deaths over the past five years, from 2019 to 2023, according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). Breaking it down year by year, there were 96 deaths in 2019, 106 in 2020, 127 in 2021, 121 in 2022, and 178 in 2023. The highest number of tiger deaths in 2023 is a concern, marking the highest since 2012.Most of these deaths, about 53.2%, occurred within Tiger Reserves, while 35.22% happened outside the reserves. Maharashtra had the highest number of tiger fatalities, with 52 deaths, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 45 deaths.
The destruction of forest coverage by Maoists may be one of the reasons for this decrease. Wild animals deaths were also reported from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttarakhand. No doubt, the

world wild life Fund is the international agency, which is doing commendable work in promoting the protection of wildlife and there are number of national agencies engaged in the conservation of wildlife. According to research, the average life span of the tigers in the wild is generally 10-12 years and in natural ecosystem, factors like old age, diseases, internecine fights, electrocution, snaring, drowning, road, rail hits, among others, and a very high infant mortality observed in big cats, including tigers, account for majority of the tiger deaths. Madhya Pradesh leads the states in tiger numbers and, per the 2018 figures, counted 526 of the big cats within its territory. Karnataka was a close second with 524 tigers while Uttarakhand had the third-highest population of 444 tigers.
We should know that we are not just animals, but that we belong to the same family tree as other mammals, that our physiology and bodily processes are just like theirs, and that our mental processes too are from the same general pattern. The protection of the national animal has been a significant achievement till now. Hope this continues and leads to a significant rise in the coming yearsAmong animals, some are fewer in number than the others, If proper care and security are extended to them, the rare animals would survive. Only the

future can tell whether national animal will survive to maintain the much-needed ecological balance. If we delay now, it might be too late.
Tigers play a large role in sustaining the biodiversity of forests, in maintaining healthy ecology, habitat conservation and the livelihoods of rural communities. <
The tiger population has decreased in the states of Telengana& Andhra Pradesh. The destruction of forest coverage by Maoists may be one of the reasons for this decrease. Wild tiger deaths were also reported from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttarakhand. During the first six months of the year, 30 deaths were reported.
The protection of the national animal has been a significant achievement till now. Hope this continues and leads to a significant rise in the coming years. Credit must also be given to Aircel for initiating "Save Tiger" campaign, along with New Delhi Television (NDTV), who played an active role in creating awareness among the people on dwindling tiger population in India. A new Tiger commando force should be created to protect tigers from the poachers. Government must try to put in more efforts to improve the arrangements to conserve the national pride - the Tiger.

Climateflation

SURINDERPAL SINGH

What is Climateflation?
"Climateflation" is the latest scientific term derived from combination of words climate and inflation. It refers to the boom in inflationary pressures in the economy caused by direct or indirect impacts of climate change. Unlike the traditional inflation which is driven by demand-supply imbalance or monetary policy changes climateflation is triggered by environmental disruptions like extreme weather, droughts, floods,wildfires and other natural calamities which in turn disrupt the production, supply chains and food security.
As global temperatures continues to rise and climate-related events are becoming more frequent and intense, climateflation has emerged as a significant concern for economists, policymakers and environmentalists alike. It represents a troubling feedback loop where environmental

degradation fuels economic instability which can then reduce resources available to fight climate change.
Reasons for Climateflation
There are several interconnected factors that are l contributeling to climateflation.Some of major factors are listed below:
Extreme Weather Events
Climate change has increased the frequency and severity of natural disasters which are bound to happen in the form of hurricanes, floods, wildfires and heatwaves. These natural calamities destroy the crops, damage infrastructure and can severely disrupt transport and supply chains. This can cause major shortages of goods and services which leads to heavy price spikes.
Agricultural Disruption
Changes in rainfall patterns, rising temperatures and declining water availability has resulted in reduced crop yields. Many climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture and fisheries are suffering the most. Reduced food supply causes food prices to surge directly contributing to inflation.
Energy Price Volatility
Climate policies like carbon taxes or transition to cleaner energy can increase production cost even it may be for a short duration of time. Meanwhile climate events has often damaged the energy infrastructure (oil rigs, power lines) leading to higher energy costs.

Insurance and Risk Premiums
With higher risk of property damage due to extreme weather, the cost of insurance has raised by many folds. Businesses has transferred these costs on to consumers through higher prices for goods and services.
Supply Chain Disruptions
Ports, roads and factories can be affected by floods or storms. Globalized supply chains are highly vulnerable and delays or shortages of materials can raise prices across multiple industries.
After-effects of Climateflation
Climateflation has far-reaching consequences, not only for prices but also for societal equity, development and environmental policy:
Reduced Purchasing Power
Rising prices of different products may reduce the real incomes and this would result in affecting low-income households that often spends a larger share of their budget on essentials like food and energy.
Policy Dilemmas for Central Banks
Climateflation has created a unique challenge for central banks. Traditional tools like interest rate hikes may not work well when inflation is supply-side driven by climate shocks.
Inequality and Social Unrest
Inflation driven by climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable populations leading to greater inequality and potential unrest.

Investment Uncertainty
Businesses across a particular region may delay or cancel investments due to uncertainties over climate policy and the economic impact of extreme weather.
Threat to Food Security
In the long run, climateflation could contribute to global food crises particularly in developing countries dependent on agriculture and imports.
Ways to Reduce Climateflation
Well the problem of addressing climateflation requires a dual approach—mitigating climate change and adapting economic systems to its effects.
Here are key strategies:
Invest in Climate-Resilient Agriculture
Develop drought-resistant crops, improve irrigation techniques and promote sustainable farming practices to reduce vulnerability to weather extremes.
Build Robust Infrastructure
Governments must invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, including flood defenses, green buildings and resilient transport systems.
Diversify Supply Chains
Businesses across the globe should diversify suppliers and adopt regional sourcing to reduce risks of climate-related disruptions in global supply chains.
Support Green Energy Transition
Accelerating the shift to renewable energy can reduce

dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate the energy price volatility tied to climate disruptions.
Improve Disaster Preparedness
Better forecasting, emergency response and early warning systems can reduce economic damages from climate events.
Carbon Pricing with Social Safeguards
Carbon taxes and emission trading systems must be designed with safeguards (such as rebates or subsidies) to prevent negative impacts on vulnerable populations.
Climate-Aware Monetary and Fiscal Policy
Central banks and governments must integrate climate risks into economic planning, ensuring that inflation targets and public spending are aligned with environmental goals.
Climateflation is a pressing challenge of our time, highlighting the deep interconnection between environmental health and economic stability. While it is complicating traditional economic management, it also presents a crucial opportunity to reimagine policies through a climate-conscious lens. Combating climateflation requires systemic change—across agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and finance—driven by a commitment to both economic equity and planetary sustainability.