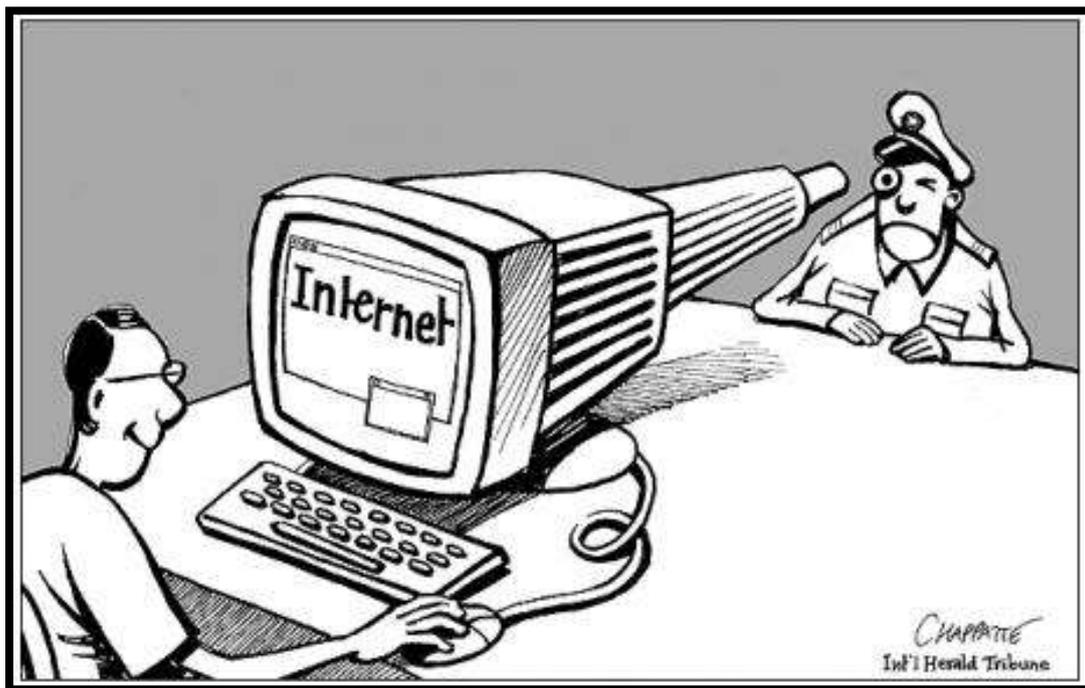


Continuing to Ignore Privacy Concerns of the Public



(Source- - <https://www.emaze.com/@AFLFZICW/RIGHT-TO-PRIVACY>)

In This Issue

LEAD ESSAY:

- Continuing to Ignore Privacy Concerns of the Public

HEADLINE OF THE WEEK:

- Myths of Growth

SECTION 1: ECONOMY

- Where's the poverty line in India?
- Municipal Bond Market Could Be the Answer to Financing Woes of Smart Cities
- Will the strong coal price rebound sustain?

SECTION 2: GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Politics and Governance** : Jharkhand's Aadhaar-Based Public Distribution System Means Denial of Ration For Many
- **Development**: Rich Countries Should Take Development Goals Seriously Too
- **Government**: Centre Says no to Special Status for Andhra Pradesh, Cites Constraints in Finance Commission Report.
- **Education**: India will be late by 50 years in achieving Education Goals: Unesco
- **Health**: How government can make healthcare affordable in India
- **Technology**: ICICI Bank deploys 'software robots', Gujarat, Centre Issued Notices Over PIL Claiming PokemonGo Hurts Religious Sentiments.
- **Environment** : The Cost of Interlinking India's Rivers
- **Agriculture**: Crop insurance scheme hits premium hurdle
- **Law and Justice**: Unwarranted Arrests, Doctors Can't Enter into Sexual or Emotional Relationships with Patients: Indian Psychiatric Society

SECTION 3: SOCIETY

- **Communalism**: Academics Against NBT's Decision to Stop Reprinting Bipan Chandra's Book
- **Gender**: Triple talaq: The Muslim Law Board's affidavit in the Supreme Court has a few positives for women, College girls to play teachers for govt pupils; Shia Personal Law Board denounces triple talaq, drafts new model 'nikahnama.'

SECTION 4: INDIA AND WORLD

- **India In The World**: Modi in China: The G20 and Beyond
- **International Affairs**: Syria: US, Russia sign ceasefire pact, 'cessation of hostilities' from Monday
- **Americas**: THE LIVES OF POOR WHITE PEOPLE

SECTION 5: Opinions/Books

- Why Kishore Biyani is scared of Start-ups
- Identity Politics Run Amok

Lead Essay

Continuing to Ignore Privacy Concerns of the Public

The recent clamour around the new Privacy Policy announced by the popular messaging app, Whatsapp, was instructive for many reasons. Probably the most important of them being the contrast between the very vociferous concerns of the over 70 million Whatsapp users in India regarding the possible privacy intrusions by the company, as compared to the almost muted concerns that were raised when the Aadhaar Act, 2016 was passed earlier this year. The primary reason for this could well be that while the narrative around Whatsapp's parent company, Facebook's, possible misuse of user data has been debated widely, both internationally and in India, but the 'scope creep' and privacy ramifications of some of the current government's plans vis-a-vis Aadhaar and other such initiatives, have largely remained hidden under the argument that they are just 'benign' technological solutions advancing the cause of efficiency and reducing corruption, so those who question it must be Luddites or have their own agenda. In fact it's no one's case really that Aadhaar will not advance both the cause of efficiency in government's disbursement of benefits and attack corruption, but most right thinking people will agree that it, and other such government initiatives call for the speedy passing of a strong Privacy Law.

That this was the stance of Nandan Nilekani, founding chairman of Unique Identification Authority of India, is something that seems to have been forgotten. Emphasizing on the need for an overall privacy law Mr. Nilekani remembers writing a letter to then Prime Minister in May 2010 stating that we need a privacy law for Aadhaar and many other things for issue of phone tapping, organisations collecting data like health care, financial records etc.ⁱ Even though privacy issues are discussed by the Aadhaar Act, 2016 it would only be logical to have an overarching privacy legislation and a specific data regulator address to privacy concerns, rather than have each database come with a specific piece of vaguely-worded legislation, very liable to misuse.ⁱⁱ

With the increasing number of government schemes emphasizing on possession of Aadhaar numberⁱⁱⁱ the BJP government at the Centre has blatantly flouted the Supreme Court verdict ordering that possession of Aadhaar cannot be made mandatory for availing government subsidies. In an absolute over reach of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, the government at the Centre continues to interlink Aadhaar number with other services especially under the Digital India initiative. Similarly, four years ago Whatsapp assured its users about its stand against advertising and yet today it is open to the idea of data sharing so that users can receive targeted ads.

By choosing to go for the 'opt-out' method rather than the 'opt-in' method, Whatsapp has clearly kept communication control outside the hands of the user since the opt-out system more often than not assumes the response of users to policy changes to be a 'tacit yes'.^{iv} While opt-outs are not new to debate regarding privacy policies, the background of Facebook's dubious claims of safeguarding user's privacy and backtracking on a promise of ad-free user interface is indicative of how an individual's consent was assumed as the app has become an intrinsic part of daily lives. Even in the Aadhaar Act the lack of a provision for revocation of individual consent once given only highlighted that consent was not construed in the strictest manner.^v

Another glaring anomaly is the lack of 'purpose limitation' in the construction of the Aadhaar Act and the Whatsapp privacy policy leaves it open to manipulation. According to the policy Whatsapp messages will not be shared *onto* Facebook. Would that mean information will not be shared *with* Facebook? Possibly not.^{vi} Similarly using 'national security' as an exceptional circumstance for sharing identity information under the Aadhaar Act was a cause of alarm for civil society as there is no defined national security policy in India at all!

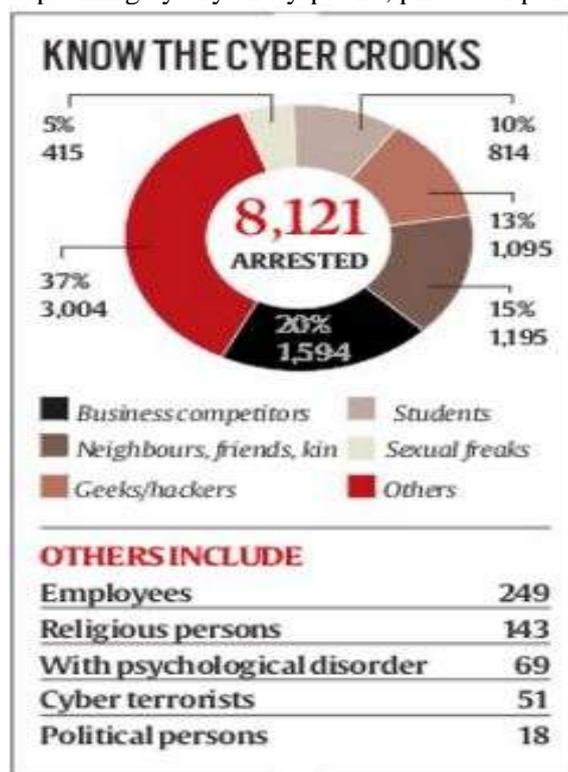
Since Whatsapp just like Aadhaar challenges privacy laws by extending an argument favouring efficiency in disbursement of services^{vii}-whether it is subsidies or targeted ads-have the ramifications of lack of privacy jurisprudence in India finally struck a chord closer to home?

Should the average citizen be worried about unfettered technological advancement into their personal data space?

Lead Essay

Possibility of Profiling

Consider this- two members from the UIDAI team from the private sector gave a statement that for the purposes of generating Aadhaar number no information is collected which can result in profiling on the basis of religion and caste.^{viii} In an absolutely contradictory move as per Section 4(2) of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 which states that 'an Aadhaar number shall be a random number and bear no relation to the attributes or identity of the Aadhaar number holder'; in June this year the Centre directed all State Governments to link Aadhaar card number to the caste certificates issued to school students and this information will be 'fed into the Meta Data to be made online.'^{ix} This is worrying when seen in light of the NCRB data which points to an emerging group of cyber criminals belonging to religious and political outfits in 2015.^x With the caste database now a part of metadata and no data regulators or data protections laws to stand as watchdogs, the idea of caste/religious profiling by any entity-public, private or political-is not unfathomable, is it?



It is not just caste and religion based profiling that the average man needs to be wary of. At a time when Big Data and Data Mining have reached a stage where an algorithm can predict what day of the month and at what time a person will buy an item we have to be careful of every personal data entering the virtual space, the GSTN information network in this regard could also be a recipe for a data disaster. A Section 25, not for profit private limited company partly owned by private banks GSTN was reported to soon have access to all the tax data held by the Central Board of Direct Taxes. Although the GSTN calls itself a company set up primarily to provide IT infrastructure and services to the Central and state governments, tax payers and other stakeholders for implementation of the Goods and Services Tax, but with this move tax compliance data is at the mercy of a private Data Company.^{xi} This can be disastrous considering the cyber harassment or crimes that could ensue in face of virtually no privacy law and data security protocols that can protect citizens from data misuse if it falls into the wrong hands.

Lack of recourse in case of violation

In the absence of a legal or constitutional framework devoted to the protection of privacy rights what recourse will the average citizen have in case s/he suffers as a consequence of caste/religious based profiling or digital snooping? Whom

Lead Essay

will s/he approach to punish the act of his personal information being compromised for political gains by those who wield power? Is vexatious litigation the recourse suggested for protection for a basic human right like right to privacy? The problem in approaching the Court is further amplified by the fact that there is no specific privacy legislation to apply to the case. There is high likelihood that an order of the Court is termed as judicial over reach by the government and completely ignored. Effectively, there is no true recourse for violation of right to privacy at all.

Understanding the Right of Privacy

The Right to Privacy is not an elitist right that should concern only a limited few belonging to the upper echelons of the society. It is wrong to see it as a selfish, individual right alone either. As everybody from the remotest to the busiest parts of India is equally being encouraged to adopt the technocratic alternatives for all tasks it is impossible to envisage that Indians at large in the near future will escape forming digital footprints.

The mobile based application like 'Meri Sadak' and 'Swachhata' allow stakeholders to post photos along with GPS location to monitor the success of government schemes Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan respectively. This marks only the beginning of converting the erstwhile disengaged stakeholders into active participants who evaluate government functioning through their smart phones. Google has reportedly planned to align its Bharat Saves websites to the government's financial inclusion scheme, Jan Dhan Yojana in order to increase financial literacy and consequently financial inclusion.^{xii} Currently this data base is not intrusive considering a large portion of the population that has not been tapped into by smart phones; however the possibility of it becoming so cannot be over looked.

Responding to the push of technology the government under the Digital India initiative, has mandated an open architecture for the five programmes that can 'talk' to each other: Aadhaar, e-KYC (know your customer), e-Sign (legally accepted digital document signing), privacy-protected data sharing, and the Unified Payments Interface or UPI that allows money transfer using a single identifier. Called the 'India Stack', this set of programmes is allowing fintech firms to make finance friendly.^{xiii} The government is only paying lip service by saying that data is going to be privacy protected. How 'privacy protected' data sharing is going to be when there is not legislative mandate for the same is a question that the government seems to be silent on. And in the absence of any over sight committee formed under the mandate of a privacy legislation who will ensure the security of this very sensitive information being available online?

The essential point here is- it is not about protecting an individual's privacy rights so that the rest of the society can receive benefits. Rather it is about protecting the privacy rights of the entire society against the very likely probability of an Orwellian government.

Giovanni Buttarelli, the European Data Protection Supervisor, in one of his speeches has wisely pointed out that it is impossible to predict how digital technology will have transformed our society in 20 years' time, by 2035. As he makes a case for data protection particularly he states that- *data protection is about power: who does what, and how they do it responsibly and accountably. That is why data protection is such an integral bulwark of our democracy.*^{xiv} By being passive about taking the first step in formulating a strong privacy discourse are we going against our Constitutional principle of democracy?

During a speech at the Parivartan Rally this year, the Prime Minister exemplified his fine crowd engagement skills. Responding to his request of showing love and support the gathering in the Allahabad Parade raised their hands together, turned on their cell phone flash lights and said *waah, waah* as instructed. As India reportedly becomes one of the fastest growing smart phone markets, people's accessibility to internet and all its services is also on the rise. What we consider as an important tool as a source of power for us right now given this government's emphasis on involving technology in governance, is also collecting our personal information every time we grant permissions of access to apps. The world is at the cusp of the fourth industrial revolution and it would be regressive to not welcome technological

Lead Essay

advancements. But the disclaimer here is that technology advancements that make life simpler must be accompanied by a protective shield of privacy laws to live in a future society where data can be used as weapon.

Prepared By:
Niharika Bapna

References:

- ⁱ “I Have Long Said We Need a Privacy Law But Aadhaar Has Safeguards: Nandan Nilekani”, Business Standard. April 1, 2016. Available at: http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/i-have-long-said-we-need-a-privacy-law-but-aadhaar-has-safeguards-nandan-nilekani-116033101396_1.html Accessed on 9.9.2016
- ⁱⁱ Anuj Srivas, “The Technocratic Visions of Nandan Nilekani”, The Wire, March 17, 2016. Available at: <http://thewire.in/24966/the-technocratic-visions-of-nandan-nilekani-what-an-aadhaar-enabled-future-may-look-like/> Accessed on: 9.9.2016
- ⁱⁱⁱ “The Mission Creep Behind Aadhaar Project”, The Wire, September 2, 2016. Available at: <http://thewire.in/63223/the-mission-creep-behind-the-uidais-centralisation-ideology/> Accessed on 3.9.2016
- ^{iv} Martha Rogers, “Solving the Opt-in/Opt-out Debate”, Inc., September 2002. Available at: <http://www.inc.com/articles/2002/10/24718.html> Accessed on 5.9.2016
- ^v <http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/VSqBps7Y5YrUhvS5mGgSO/Aadhaar-still-too-many-problems.html>, March 7, 2016. Accessed on 7.3.2016
- ^{vi} Asheeta Regidi, “Whatsapp Privacy Policy: Yes the Delhi High Court Can Find Fault With it”, Firstpost, September , 2016. Available at: <http://tech.firstpost.com/news-analysis/whatsapp-privacy-policy-yes-the-delhi-high-court-can-find-fault-with-it-332979.html> Accessed on 3.9.2016
- ^{vii} Messages from friends, family, colleagues and even social notifications from airlines, delivery services and most importantly banks
- “Whatsapp’s Data Sharing with Facebook Does Not Go Down Well With Twitter Users”, The Indian Express, August 28, 2016. Available at: <http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/social/whatsapps-data-sharing-with-facebook-does-not-go-down-well-with-twitter-2999242/> Accessed on 3.9.2016
- ^{viii} Piyush Peshwani and Bhuwan Joshi, “Aadhaar Identification Simplified, Myths Busted”, The Wire, March 14, 2016. Available at: <http://thewire.in/24713/aadhaar-identification-simplified-myths-busted/> Accessed on 8.9.2016
- ^{ix} Refer to question no. 9. Available at: <http://ccis.nic.in/WriteReadData/CircularPortal/D2/D02adm/FAQ-21062016.pdf> Accessed on 8.9.2016
- ^x “NCRB Data: India’s Cyber Criminals are Mostly Business Rivals , Sometimes Religious Persons”, The Indian Express, September 8, 2016. Available at: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/ncrb-data-cyber-crime-inida-criminals-business-rivals-religious-person-hackers-sexual-freaks-3019349/> Accessed on 8.9.2016
- ^{xi} Serish Naniseti, “End of Privacy is Death Knell for Indian Democracy”, August 5, 2015. Available at: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/opinion/End-of-Privacy-is-Death-Knell-for-Indian-Democracy/2015/08/05/article2958120.ece> Accessed on 9.9.2016
- ^{xii} “Google to Develop Bharat Saves Website”, Deccan Chronicle, September 6, 2016. Available at: <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/technology/in-other-news/060916/google-to-develop-bharat-saves-website.html> Accessed on 8.9.2016
- ^{xiii} Monika Halan, “Coming On a Screen Soon: All Your Money”, The Livemint, September 7, 2016. Available at: <http://www.livemint.com/Money/GpUnXkfU5ELaHNre2Ov2UP/Coming-on-a-screen-soon-all-your-money.html> Accessed on 8.9.2016
- ^{xiv} Keynote speech at the 6th International e-Democracy 2015 Conference on Citizen rights in the world of the new computing paradigms Athens (by recorded message) 10 December 2015. Available at: https://secure.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/webdav/site/mySite/shared/Documents/EDPS/Publications/Speeches/2015/15-12-10_eDemocracy_EN.pdf Accessed on 5.9.2016

Headlines

Myths of Growth

(Jayanta Roy, *The Telegraph*, September 8, 2016)

The Indian economy has been growing above 7 per cent, which is the highest among all major countries. This has encouraged many of our top policy-makers to announce that India will be a developed country by 2030. This euphoria is not supportive of India's economic performance with a per capita income (exchange rate basis) at paltry \$1,590, and even in terms of purchasing power parity only at \$6,020. Contrast this with Malaysia, with per capita income of \$10,570 (exchange rate basis) and \$20,140 in PPP terms. India is far off from even average high middle income countries, leave alone the developed countries.

Read More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160908/jsp/opinion/story_106825.jsp#.V9IxGvI97IU

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

Economy

Where's the poverty line in India?

(Biraj Swain, *NewsLaundry*, September 7, 2016)

India's poverty line definition has been pegged at calorie consumption, which has been critiqued by progressive and heterodox economists as minimalist (considering nutritious food items, shelter, education, healthcare expenses are inadequately factored in). In the days before May 2014, the erstwhile Planning Commission used to put out poverty lines for rural and urban India. The month of August is that time of the year when that exercise took place. Ridiculously low and unquestionably accepted, these poverty lines were discussed in academic papers and panel discussions in the over-professionalised circles of economists and statisticians only. But 2010 changed all that when the union government's affidavit in the Supreme Court on the Right to Food litigation writ petition 196/2001 was challenged by the Supreme Court bench as destitution line and host of journalists took notice.

Read More: <http://www.newsLaundry.com/2016/09/07/wheres-the-poverty-line-in-india/>

Date Accessed: 12/09/2016

Municipal Bond Market Could Be the Answer to Financing Woes of Smart Cities

(Shamika Ravi & Ankit Bhatia, *TheWire.in*, September 9, 2016)

As India continues to experience rapid urban expansion, public and private leaders at the national, state and local level are looking at better ways of managing the growing urban agglomerations. Poor infrastructure in urban spaces drives away agglomeration economies and is inimical to the economic growth and productivity. The Smart Cities mission, launched under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in 2015, is an ambitious multi-year effort in this direction. This mission envisages to improve urban infrastructure and build world class living environment in 100 of India's rapidly expanding cities by improving urban governance and deploying technological solutions.

Read More: <http://thewire.in/64452/financing-smart-cities-a-case-for-municipal-bonds-market/>

Date Accessed: 12.9.2016

Will the strong coal price rebound sustain?

(MoneyLife digital team, *moneyLife.in*, September 9, 2016)

Asia's policy-fuelled coal-price rebound may fade away, as demand is likely to remain sluggish, says a research note. Fitch Ratings, in the report says that it believes the strong gains in Asia thermal-coal prices in recent months – with the benchmark Newcastle 6,000kcal/kg coal price having appreciated 32% in August 2016 and averaged \$54.2 per metric tonne – are unlikely to be sustained as they were driven more by production regulations than demand fundamentals. Demand continues to be weak, with China coal consumption having fallen 4.6% yoy in first half of 2016 and India imports down.

Read More: <http://www.moneyLife.in/article/will-the-strong-coal-price-rebound-sustain/48102.html>

Date Accessed: 12.9.2016

Governance & Development

POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

Jharkhand's Aadhaar-Based Public Distribution System Means Denial of Ration For Many

(Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar, *The Wire*, September 09, 2016)

The pilot project meant to introduce internet-linked biometric technology to stop corruption and prevent leakages in the public distribution system (PDS) has run into trouble from the word go. "Point of sales" (PoS) machines installed at distribution outlets are unable to recognise the fingerprints of a large number of National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries in the Ranchi district of Jharkhand. The machines recognising only about half of all cardholders has not only resulted in the denial of rations to many poor people, but also highlighted the inappropriate nature of Aadhaar technology for rural Jharkhand and other rural areas where it is expected to be introduced later.

Read More: http://thewire.in/64756/jharkhand-aadhaar-pds-nfsa/?utm_content=bufferda965&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

DEVELOPMENT

Rich Countries Should Take Development Goals Seriously Too

(Lyndal Rowlands, *The Wire*, September 7, 2016)

The UN's new sustainable development goals (SDGs) apply to all 193 UN member states, yet one year in some say that rich countries aren't taking their critical role quite as seriously as they should be. "What is an interesting, but also a scary observation, is [that the sustainable development agenda is] taken more seriously in developing countries than in many developed countries right now," Mogens Lykkesoft, president of the UN General Assembly, told *IPS* in a recent interview. "The development agenda is not as it was expressed more or less in the Millennium Development Goals (which ended in 2015), about poor people in poor countries, it's about all people in all countries," said Lykkesoft.

Read More: <http://thewire.in/64475/rich-countries-should-take-sustainable-development-goals-seriously-too/>

Date of Access: 9.8.2016

GOVERNMENT

Centre Says no to Special Status for Andhra Pradesh, Cites Constraints in Finance Commission Report

(Scroll, September 8, 2016)

The Centre on Wednesday said "constraints as per the 14th Finance Commission report" did not allow the Narendra Modi government to grant special category status to Andhra Pradesh, according to the Hindustan Times. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced a special five-year package for the state instead. He said the Centre had decided to implement a Special Assistance Measure "in such a way that it largely compensates the losses caused to the state for being denied" the status.

Read More: http://scroll.in/latest/815952/centre-says-no-to-special-status-for-andhra-pradesh-cites-constraints-in-finance-commission-report?utm_source=feedly&utm_medium=composite%20feed.

Date of Access: 9.8.2016

Governance & Development

EDUCATION

India will be late by 50 years in achieving Education Goals: Unesco

(Live Mint, September 06, 2016)

Unesco's new *Global Education Monitoring (GEM)* report says that based on current trends universal primary education in Southern Asia will be achieved in 2051, lower secondary in 2062, and upper secondary in 2087. The report says there is an urgent need for greater headway in education and the sector needs a major transformation to fulfil the needed potential and meet the current challenges facing humanity and the planet. It also talks of another report, *Education for People and Planet*, which, it said, shows the need for education systems to step up attention to environmental concerns.

Read More: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/hCNChishenJwWp3jC0iRCL/India-will-be-late-by-50-years-in-achieving-education-goals.html>

Date Accessed: 10.9.2016

HEALTH

How government can make healthcare affordable in India

(Rajeev Ahuja, *Financial Express*, September 9, 2016)

Private institutions are dominant providers of both hospitalised and non-hospitalised care in urban and rural areas. Seeking care from private institutions is invariably more expensive. For example, hospitalised treatment in private institutions in rural areas, on an average, costs four times more than what it costs in public institutions. Healthcare payments are one of the important reasons for impoverishment of households. Because of its frequency of use, non-hospitalised care impoverishes more households than hospitalised care. Further, purchase of medicines for non-hospital care accounts for the dominant share (72% in rural and 68% in urban) in a household's total medical expenditure. Jan Aushadhi Scheme, designed to make quality medicines available at affordable prices, has the potential to address this. However, hospitalised care too is impoverishing, but it affects a much smaller percentage of population. For every 1,000 people, only 35 persons in rural areas and 44 in urban areas get hospitalised every year. A health insurance scheme provides financial protection against medical expenses for hospitalised care only.

Read More: <http://www.financialexpress.com/fe-columnist/how-government-can-make-healthcare-affordable-in-india/371620/>

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

TECHNOLOGY

ICICI Bank deploys 'software robots'

(*The Tribune*, September 9, 2016)

The country's largest private lender ICICI Bank became the first bank in India on Thursday to deploy 'software robots' that emulate human action, in its over 200 business processes, thereby reducing the response time to customers by up to 60%.

Read More: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/icici-bank-deploys-software-robots/292351.html>

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

Gujarat, Centre Issued Notices Over PIL Claiming PokemonGo Hurts Religious Sentiments

(*The Wire*, September 7, 2016)

Dave said, "This game hurts religious sentiments of Hindus and various other religions since eggs are depicted at temples and other houses of prayers belonging to several religions. I moved the PIL to know what is the intention of this gaming company." The allegation arose from the fact that images of eggs show up on smartphones inside places of worship. Gamers can collect these eggs,

Governance & Development

which later hatch into Pokemon. The petitioner finds this blasphemous because eggs are considered non-vegetarian and therefore should not be carried inside Hindu or Jain temples

Read More: <http://thewire.in/64645/pokemon-go-eggs-hurt-religious-sentiments/>.

Date of Access: 9.8.2016

ENVIRONMENT

The Cost of Interlinking India's Rivers

(Sudha Ramachandran, *The Diplomat*, July 20, 2016)

Touted as the world's largest irrigation infrastructure project, the ILR program involves construction of around 15,000 km of new canals and 3,000 big and small dams and storage structures. Broadly, it has two parts: the Himalayan rivers component with 14 links and the peninsular component with 16 links, which will transport 33 and 141 trillion liters of water, respectively, per year.

Read More: <http://thediplomat.com/2016/07/the-cost-of-interlinking-indias-rivers/>

Date Accessed: 10.9.2016

AGRICULTURE

Crop insurance scheme hits premium hurdle

(Jitendra Choube, *Down to Earth*, September 9, 2016)

India's most ambitious crop insurance scheme till date is likely to be derailed in its very first phase, as states are hesitant to implement it because of excess financial burden. Launched in January to provide succour to farmers in case of crop loss or damage due to unseasonal rainfall, hailstorm, drought and other natural calamities, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented for the first time in the ongoing kharif season across India at a total annual budgetary allocation of Rs 5,500 crore by the Centre.

Read More: <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/premium-hurdle-55504>

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

LAW AND JUSTICE

Unwarranted Arrests

(*The Tribune*, September 8, 2016)

More than surprising it is shocking that the police in various states kept arresting people under a law that has been struck down by the Supreme Court. Acting against those posting objectionable content on the Internet the police evoked Section 66A of the Information Technology Act to justify the arrests. Statistics released recently show that in 2014 the police proceeded against 2,423 persons under Section 66A of the IT Act but more than 3,000 people were arrested under the same section in 2015 after the apex court had held it unconstitutional, saying that such a law hit at the root of liberty and freedom of expression, the two cardinal pillars of democracy.

Read More: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/editorials/unwarranted-arrests/291794.html>

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

Doctors Can't Enter into Sexual or Emotional Relationships with Patients: Indian Psychiatric Society

(Scroll, September 9, 2016)

The Indian Psychiatric Society has framed guidelines, directing doctors not to enter into sexual or emotional relationships with their patients. This is the first time that an association of doctors in India has come up with such advice. The advice is for the entire medical fraternity. However, it will be binding on members of the Indian Psychiatric Society once the body formally adopts the

Governance & Development

guidelines in October. “We have invited suggestions from the community on the guidelines, which will be adopted next month,” said Dr G Prasad Rao, president of the Indian Psychiatric Society.

Read More: http://scroll.in/latest/815956/doctors-cant-enter-into-sexual-or-emotional-relationships-with-patients-indian-psychiatric-society?utm_source=feedly&utm_medium=composite%20feed

Date of Access: 9.8.2016

POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

Jharkhand’s Aadhaar-Based Public Distribution System Means Denial of Ration For Many

(Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar, *The Wire*, September 09, 2016)

The pilot project meant to introduce internet-linked biometric technology to stop corruption and prevent leakages in the public distribution system (PDS) has run into trouble from the word go. “Point of sales” (PoS) machines installed at distribution outlets are unable to recognise the fingerprints of a large number of National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries in the Ranchi district of Jharkhand. The machines recognising only about half of all cardholders has not only resulted in the denial of rations to many poor people, but also highlighted the inappropriate nature of Aadhaar technology for rural Jharkhand and other rural areas where it is expected to be introduced later.

Read More: http://thewire.in/64756/jharkhand-aadhaar-pds-nfsa/?utm_content=bufferda965&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

DEVELOPMENT

Rich Countries Should Take Development Goals Seriously Too

(Lyndal Rowlands, *The Wire*, September 7, 2016)

The UN’s new sustainable development goals (SDGs) apply to all 193 UN member states, yet one year in some say that rich countries aren’t taking their critical role quite as seriously as they should be. “What is an interesting, but also a scary observation, is [that the sustainable development agenda is] taken more seriously in developing countries than in many developed countries right now,” Mogens Lyketteft, president of the UN General Assembly, told *IPS* in a recent interview. “The development agenda is not as it was expressed more or less in the Millennium Development Goals (which ended in 2015), about poor people in poor countries, it’s about all people in all countries,” said Lyketteft.

Read More: <http://thewire.in/64475/rich-countries-should-take-sustainable-development-goals-seriously-too/>

Date of Access: 9.8.2016

GOVERNMENT

Centre Says no to Special Status for Andhra Pradesh, Cites Constraints in Finance Commission Report

(Scroll, September 8, 2016)

The Centre on Wednesday said “constraints as per the 14th Finance Commission report” did not allow the Narendra Modi government to grant special category status to Andhra Pradesh, according to the Hindustan Times. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced a special five-year package for the state instead. He said the Centre had decided to implement a Special Assistance Measure “in such a way that it largely compensates the losses caused to the state for being denied” the status.

Read More: http://scroll.in/latest/815952/centre-says-no-to-special-status-for-andhra-pradesh-cites-constraints-in-finance-commission-report?utm_source=feedly&utm_medium=composite%20feed.

Date of Access: 9.8.2016

Governance & Development

EDUCATION

India will be late by 50 years in achieving Education Goals: UNESCO

(*Live Mint*, September 06, 2016)

Unesco's new *Global Education Monitoring (GEM)* report says that based on current trends universal primary education in Southern Asia will be achieved in 2051, lower secondary in 2062, and upper secondary in 2087. The report says there is an urgent need for greater headway in education and the sector needs a major transformation to fulfil the needed potential and meet the current challenges facing humanity and the planet. It also talks of another report, *Education for People and Planet*, which, it said, shows the need for education systems to step up attention to environmental concerns.

Read More: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/hCNChishenJwWp3jC0iRCL/India-will-be-late-by-50-years-in-achieving-education-goals.html>

Date Accessed: 10.9.2016

HEALTH

How government can make healthcare affordable in India

(*Rajeev Ahuja, Financial Express*, September 9, 2016)

Private institutions are dominant providers of both hospitalised and non-hospitalised care in urban and rural areas. Seeking care from private institutions is invariably more expensive. For example, hospitalised treatment in private institutions in rural areas, on an average, costs four times more than what it costs in public institutions. Healthcare payments are one of the important reasons for impoverishment of households. Because of its frequency of use, non-hospitalised care impoverishes more households than hospitalised care. Further, purchase of medicines for non-hospital care accounts for the dominant share (72% in rural and 68% in urban) in a household's total medical expenditure. Jan Aushadhi Scheme, designed to make quality medicines available at affordable prices, has the potential to address this. However, hospitalised care too is impoverishing, but it affects a much smaller percentage of population. For every 1,000 people, only 35 persons in rural areas and 44 in urban areas get hospitalised every year. A health insurance scheme provides financial protection against medical expenses for hospitalised care only.

Read More: <http://www.financialexpress.com/fe-columnist/how-government-can-make-healthcare-affordable-in-india/371620/>

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

TECHNOLOGY

ICICI Bank deploys 'software robots'

(*The Tribune*, September 9, 2016)

The country's largest private lender ICICI Bank became the first bank in India on Thursday to deploy 'software robots' that emulate human action, in its over 200 business processes, thereby reducing the response time to customers by up to 60%.

Read More: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/icici-bank-deploys-software-robots/292351.html>

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

Gujarat, Centre Issued Notices Over PIL Claiming PokemonGo Hurts Religious Sentiments

(*The Wire*, September 7, 2016)

Dave said, "This game hurts religious sentiments of Hindus and various other religions since eggs are depicted at temples and other houses of prayers belonging to several religions. I moved the PIL to know what is the intention of this gaming company." The allegation arose from the fact that images of eggs show up on smartphones inside places of worship. Gamers can collect these eggs, which later hatch into Pokemon. The petitioner finds this blasphemous because eggs are considered non-vegetarian and therefore should not be carried inside Hindu or Jain temples.

Read More: <http://thewire.in/64645/pokemon-go-eggs-hurt-religious-sentiments/>

Date of Access: 9.8.2016

Governance & Development

ENVIRONMENT

The Cost of Interlinking India's Rivers

(Sudha Ramachandran, *The Diplomat*, July 20, 2016)

Touted as the world's largest irrigation infrastructure project, the ILR program involves construction of around 15,000 km of new canals and 3,000 big and small dams and storage structures. Broadly, it has two parts: the Himalayan rivers component with 14 links and the peninsular component with 16 links, which will transport 33 and 141 trillion liters of water, respectively, per year.

Read More: <http://thediplomat.com/2016/07/the-cost-of-interlinking-indias-rivers/>

Date Accessed: 10.9.2016

AGRICULTURE

Crop insurance scheme hits premium hurdle

(Jitendra Choube, *Down to Earth*, September 9, 2016)

India's most ambitious crop insurance scheme till date is likely to be derailed in its very first phase, as states are hesitant to implement it because of excess financial burden. Launched in January to provide succour to farmers in case of crop loss or damage due to unseasonal rainfall, hailstorm, drought and other natural calamities, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented for the first time in the ongoing kharif season across India at a total annual budgetary allocation of Rs 5,500 crore by the Centre.

Read More: <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/premium-hurdle-55504>

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

LAW AND JUSTICE

Unwarranted Arrests

(*The Tribune*, September 8, 2016)

More than surprising it is shocking that the police in various states kept arresting people under a law that has been struck down by the Supreme Court. Acting against those posting objectionable content on the Internet the police evoked Section 66A of the Information Technology Act to justify the arrests. Statistics released recently show that in 2014 the police proceeded against 2,423 persons under Section 66A of the IT Act but more than 3,000 people were arrested under the same section in 2015 after the apex court had held it unconstitutional, saying that such a law hit at the root of liberty and freedom of expression, the two cardinal pillars of democracy.

Read More: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/editorials/unwarranted-arrests/291794.html>

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

Doctors Can't Enter into Sexual or Emotional Relationships with Patients: Indian Psychiatric Society

(*Scroll*, September 9, 2016)

The Indian Psychiatric Society has framed guidelines, directing doctors not to enter into sexual or emotional relationships with their patients. This is the first time that an association of doctors in India has come up with such advice. The advice is for the entire medical fraternity. However, it will be binding on members of the Indian Psychiatric Society once the body formally adopts the guidelines in October. "We have invited suggestions from the community on the guidelines, which will be adopted next month," said Dr G Prasad Rao, president of the Indian Psychiatric Society.

Read More: http://scroll.in/latest/815956/doctors-cant-enter-into-sexual-or-emotional-relationships-with-patients-indian-psychiatric-society?utm_source=feedly&utm_medium=composite%20feed

Date of Access: 9.8.2016

Society

COMMUNALISM

Academics Against NBT's Decision to Stop Reprinting Bipan Chandra's Book

(Ajoy Ashirwad Mahaprashasta, *The Wire*, September 7, 2016)

The National Book Trust's (NBT) decision not to reprint the Hindi edition of renowned historian Bipan Chandra's book, *Communalism – A Primer*, has invited the ire of several academics from India and abroad. In a statement released by the Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust (SAHMAT), a cultural group in Delhi comprising artists, academics, and activists, they have seen NBT's move as 'a gross violation of freedom of views.' While implying that such decisions cement a sectarian agenda in autonomous educational bodies, they said the decision to revoke an important book 'amounts in effect to the assumption that communalism is now the official doctrine of the country and no criticism of it or its practitioners can be permitted.'

Read More: <http://thewire.in/64731/bipan-chandra-communalism-book-nbt/>

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

GENDER

Triple talaq: The Muslim Law Board's affidavit in the Supreme Court has a few positives for women

(Flavia Agnes, *Scroll*, September 9, 2016)

A press statement endorsed by 100-odd feminists has been released demanding a "gender just" family law for all, away from religious precepts. Demonstrations have been held to publicly denounce the affidavit, and various newspapers have carried op-eds condemning the archaic stand adopted by the Board in its affidavit.

Read More: <http://scroll.in/article/816024/triple-talaq-the-muslim-law-boards-affidavit-in-the-supreme-court-has-a-few-positives-for-women>

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

College girls to play teachers for govt pupils

(Antara Bose, *The Telegraph*, September 9, 2016)

"Children from poor economical background are often ignorant of the crucial social issues. The education department will spearhead the whole project while there will be students who will visit the schools twice a week to hold the awareness programmes. We have already sent the list of schools to the district education department," said Shukla Mahanty, principal of Jamshedpur Women's College.

Read More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160909/jsp/jharkhand/story_107056.jsp#.V9JN10197IU

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

Shia Personal Law Board denounces triple talaq, drafts new model 'nikahnama'

(*The Scroll*, September 10, 2016)

The All India Shia Personal Law Board has drafted a model nikahnama, or marriage contract, that denounces the practice of triple talaq or divorce by uttering the word "talaq" thrice. The draft also sought changes in the terms and conditions of wedlock under Islamic law.

Read More: <http://scroll.in/latest/816163/shia-personal-law-board-denounces-triple-talaq-drafts-new-model-nikahnama>

Date Accessed: 10.9.2016

India and World

INDIA IN THE WORLD

Modi in China: The G20 and Beyond

(Ashok Sajjanhar, *The Diplomat*, September 7, 2016)

Modi's message at the G20 was also directed at China which has continued to blindly support Pakistan on this vital issue. In his bilateral meeting with Xi, Modi said that terrorism should not be viewed through the prism of politics as it is a scourge that afflicts the whole world. Modi strongly urged the BRICS leaders at the meeting which he chaired to take the strongest action against terrorism as the world needs a unified approach to deal with this menace. He stressed that terrorism remains the primary source of instability and biggest threat to societies and countries; its supply chain and reach are global. In his bilateral conversation with Xi, Modi also underlined that both India and China need to be sensitive to each other's strategic interests, concerns, and aspirations to realize the full potential of their bilateral partnership.

Read More: <http://thediplomat.com/2016/09/modi-in-china-the-g20-and-beyond/>

Date of Access: 9.8.2016

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Syria: US, Russia sign ceasefire pact, 'cessation of hostilities' from Monday

(*The Scroll*, September 10, 2016)

Russia and the United States on Friday announced a ceasefire plan for the "cessation of hostilities" between the Syrian government and opposition militia in the war-torn country, BBC reported. The agreement, which will be implemented from Monday evening, will see the Bashar al-Assad regime end military operations in areas held by the opposition. The two countries will also set up a joint centre to fight militant outfits such as the Islamic State group and the Jabhat Fateh al-Sham seven days after the end of fighting and the delivery of aid to the region.

Read More: <http://scroll.in/latest/816156/syria-us-russia-sign-ceasefire-pact-cessation-of-hostilities-from-monday>

Date Accessed: 10.9.2016

AMERICAS

THE LIVES OF POOR WHITE PEOPLE

(Joshua Rothman, *New Yorker*, September 10, 2016)

"I grew up poor, in the Rust Belt, in an Ohio steel town that has been hemorrhaging jobs and hope for as long as I can remember." That's how J. D. Vance begins one of this campaign season's saddest and most fascinating books, "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" (Harper). Vance was born in Kentucky and raised by his grandparents, as a self-described "hillbilly," in Middletown, Ohio, home of the once-mighty Armco Steel. His family struggled with poverty and domestic violence, of which he was a victim. His mother was addicted to drugs—first to painkillers, then to heroin. Many of his neighbors were jobless and on welfare. Vance escaped their fate by joining the Marines and serving in Iraq. Afterward, he attended Ohio State and Yale Law School, where he was mentored by Amy Chua, the law professor and tiger mom. He now lives in San Francisco, where he works at Mithril Capital Management, the investment firm helmed by Peter Thiel. It seems safe to say that Vance, who is now in his early thirties, has seen a wider swath of America than most people.

More: <http://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/the-lives-of-poor-white-people>

Date Accessed: 12.9.2016

Opinions/ Books

OPINIONS

Identity Politics Run Amok

(David Brooks, *The New York Times*, September 2, 2016)

Once, I seem to recall, we had philosophical and ideological differences. Once, politics was a debate between liberals and conservatives, between different views of government, different views on values and America's role in the world. But this year, it seems, everything has been stripped down to the bone. Politics is dividing along crude identity lines — along race and class. Are you a native-born white or are you an outsider? Are you one of the people or one of the elites? Politics is no longer about argument or discussion; it's about trying to put your opponents into the box of the untouchables.

Read More: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/02/opinion/identity-politics-run-amok.html?_r=0

Date Accessed: 9.9.2016

Why Kishore Biyani is scared of Start-ups

(Snigdha Sengupta, *Live Mint*, September 10, 2016)

Have start-ups in India become too sexy? Yes, in the opinion of Kishore Biyani, the 56-year-old founder and group chief executive of retail giant Future Group. Biyani, speaking on Wednesday at *The Economist* India Summit in New Delhi, also said he thinks, according to multiple media reports, that 90% of the country's start-ups are not going anywhere. "They are hopeless," he says, according to a *PTI* report.

Read More: <http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/Y6Qx81RNZHYUXiM4aizFYK/Why-Kishore-Biyani-is-scared-of-startups.html>

Date Accessed: 10.9.2016

Issue Coordinator: Ms. Niharika Bapna

Connect with RGICS at: info@rgics.org; www.rgics.org



Disclaimer: This document has been prepared by the RGICS staff and has not been seen by the Trustees of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF). Further, the views presented in this document in no way reflect the views of the RGF Trustees.

To unsubscribe, please write to us at info@rgics.org