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Maximum neglect

The Manila stampede was preventable, pedestrian access must be ensured in all cities of the future. As seen in the previous case of the personal mobility system, which has some of the highest passenger densities for any city in the world, it has no single accountable manager. It is unsuitable for a modern railway system to continue with the same urban planning and development practice as in the past two decades, policy attention has tilted towards road projects, with high rates of appreciation of the challenges faced by public transport users. The identification of urban infrastructure and urban mobility should be a high priority, and good management practices can be achieved, especially in creating complex to shield passengers, such as these creating the streetscape except the use of sidewalks, providing space on both sides of main roads for the slowest and slower, all inclusive movement, there are no incentives, or the urban solution. Another option equal to the city of a quiet area of the urban solution to address urban issues, but it is something that should have been done without waiting for a crisis, and it is now too late for any crisis.

Another transport demand management strategy would consider mapping travel patterns, and shaping urban infrastructure to allow to the whole city the metropolis where infrastructure, including building, and streets can be planned to advance. The latest research is evidence of the failure of city policy in the need for pedestrian access, and it supplies not just in stations, but in the wider city. The number of private vehicles and not allowed to be used by hour and night, respectively, ever the past two decades, leading to lobbying for wider roads and more space, while urban mobility systems and facilities for walkers and cyclists have not received similar attention. Slow moving likely cannot help. The immediate requirement to real city mobility is to restore physical and policy infrastructure, clear pathways, and adjust railway stations of obstacles, small escalators, create multiple easy and safe points, and put to place an organized bus transport network and bus stops. The families of the dead and the injured should be recognized by the compensation, to ensure the accountability of the city administration.
• Ghastly suburban railway **stampede**: 23 people died after being **crushed** on a **narrow** staircase
  • Creating **canopies** to shield passengers from rain
  • **Facilitate movement**: multiple entry and exit points

• Consequence of prolonged **neglect** of urban public transport in India.
  • Mumbai depends mainly on the 300 km suburban system, which has some of the highest passenger densities for any city railway in the world.
  • Yet, it has **no single accountable manager**.
  • **3,500** people die on its tracks in a year.

• Over the past two decades, **policy attention has tilted towards road projects**, with just token appreciation of the challenges faced by public transport users.
A question of responsibility

Mumbai cannot cope, let alone be true to its dreams, unless the confusion of multiple authorities is sorted out.

On September 29, soon after the horrific stampede at a railway station in suburban Mumbai that led to the death of 24 people, two groups of public servants—local railway officers responsible for the station, and the police personnel in the suburb—were found to be in a state of confusion regarding their duties and authorities, with neither group accepting responsibility.

whatis called this phenomenon by a journalist, "incompetence syndrome," where the public servants responsible for the safety of the public, in this case, the railway police officers, are not only incompetent but also indifferent to the plight of the people they are supposed to protect.

The incident has raised questions about the efficiency and effectiveness of the public servants, especially those responsible for public transport, and has led to a debate about the need for a coherent and unified approach to managing public transport systems.

The incident has also highlighted the need for better coordination and communication among the various authorities responsible for public transport, particularly in the context of a city as large as Mumbai, where the public transport system is heavily relied upon by the population.

The incident has also raised questions about the adequacy of the public transport system, particularly the capacity of the local authorities to manage and regulate the transport system, and the need for better investment in public transport infrastructure.

The incident has also raised questions about the role of the local authorities in ensuring the safety and security of the public, particularly in the context of a city as large as Mumbai, where the public transport system is heavily relied upon by the population.

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• Jurisdiction incident is **symptomatic** of all that is wrong with Mumbai’s infrastructure.

• There are far **too many agencies, and no one is willing to take responsibility** when a tragedy takes place.
  • There are at least **five** agencies that handle **roads** in Mumbai

• **Mumbai**
  • Commercial hub, diverse in cultural inclusion: **We need such cities**
  • Business environment is **not** up to the mark

• A lack of **political will**.
  • The BMC commissioner is, in effect, Mumbai’s CEO.
  • The powerful standing committee, comprising elected representatives, can frame policies, draft bye-laws, and sanction the city’s budget.

• Mumbaikars themselves are so self-absorbed in their day-to-day struggle that they find holding politicians accountable a lost cause.
  • Even after **26/11** only **45%** of Mumbai’s voters turned up on election day in 2009

• **Spirit of Mumbai**
  • There are right-thinking and forward-looking organisations that have come forward with feasible plans to **assist** the **authorities** to make Mumbai a liveable place.
Back to paper

A State-wide voter paper trial may answer the UNSA's critics, but it is a regressive step.

The election commission's decision to deploy the voter verifiable paper audit trail system for all the constituencies in the upcoming Assembly elections is questionable. This will be the lone time voters will be used on a state-wide basis. A crude but useful complement to the electronic voting machines, it allows the voter to verify her vote after registering on the EVM, and the paper trial allows for an audit of the election results by the EC in a select and uncontrolled number of constituencies. The implementation of voter verifiable paper audit trails may have been understood by the EC in a phased manner, but this blanket use appears to have been implemented as part of a series of unconnected attacks on voting by some political parties and alliances. The EC had sought to alleviate concerns and curb allegations of vote manipulation by running the administrative and technological safeguards mentioned above, even mandating that parties have to have their own machines and equipment that parties have hand-picked for a job well done, but these measures, legally engage with the EC when challenged to do so.

The introduction of voter verifiable paper audit trails should align some of the doubts raised by some parties - but this is a crude process and should become the norm going forward.

Meanwhile, it would be wise for the EC to rapidly transition to third-generation, tamper-proof machines, which must be thoroughly tested and certified before deployment. The EC's use of simulation, non-networked machines that run on a single program and generate results that mimic simple but effective ones, were ahead of the curve compared to the alternatives used elsewhere in the world. Many advanced democracies used networked votes, which raised the question of vote manipulation through stress and crashes, degrading many of them in real life paper ballots. The EC has not demonstrated that the voting process is honest and that machines are continually upgraded to non-replaceable challenges, but there are other concerns regarding the use of technology that it must be aware of. For example, automatic voter registration, using techniques such as Face printing of election officials and related manipulation of voter data, has been resorted to in some jurisdictions abroad. The EC now in late 2019 to avoid the listing of the voter identity card with the Allahabad court in order to avoid the trap of mistakes with big data, thus becoming unacceptable to digital manipulation, and their wise decision, must remain to keep the process de-trended and accountable.
• EC’s decision to deploy the VVPAT system for all the constituencies in the Gujarat Assembly elections is questionable.
• A costly but useful complement to the Electronic Voting Machine.
  • Paper means it is not eco-friendly
• This blanket use appears to have been expedited after a series of unwarranted attacks on EVMs.
  • Hackathon of last year conducted by EC to prove that EVMs are tamper-proof.
• Rapid transit to third-generation, tamper-proof machines, which must be thoroughly tested and vetted by experts before deployment.
• Russian cyber-hacking, using techniques such as spear-phishing of election officials and related manipulation of voter data, has been suspected in some jurisdictions abroad.

• EC’s move in late 2015 to avoid the linking of the voter identity card with the Aadhaar number in order to avoid the trap of linkages with big data, thus becoming susceptible to digital manipulation, was thus a wise decision.
Babuji, my guide

Recalling Lal Bahadur Shastri's vision for a prosperous, self-reliant India

We live with a lot of stories about our leaders, and I share with you mine. It's an incident that occurred some 10 years ago, when I was posted in a remote area of the country.

I was, of course, not a political leader, but I had the opportunity to meet and interact with many leaders, including Babuji. Babuji is remembered for his vision of a self-reliant India, and his ideas continue to inspire us.

A rural focus

Babuji believed that the country could only prosper economically if people had a clean, healthy environment. He emphasized the importance of education, and believed that education should be free and compulsory for all.

Babuji's vision was that India should be self-sufficient in food production, and that the country should be able to produce enough food to feed its own people. He believed that this was essential for a strong economy and a healthy nation.

Babuji's vision was also that India should be a leader in technology and science. He believed that the country should be at the forefront of scientific progress and that it should be able to produce its own technology and scientific equipment.

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Lal Bahadur Shastri believed that the country could only progress economically if planners had a clear concept of rural development in the context of growing unemployment.

- rural economy should be given top priority to stem the flow of youth into cities looking for jobs.
- vocational education was key

In 1964: plan the economy in a rational and scientific manner.

- He had visualised that along with the Industrial Revolution, it was the Green Revolution combined with the White Revolution which could raise the economic standard of people.

- Toning up administration

Lal Bahadur Shastri was in true words the “Janak” of the Green Revolution.
Privacy is the Swaraj of our times

Once more ‘Hind Swaraj’ has to become our primary political project

AMANDEEP SINGH

At a time of gathering darkness, when India is reeling under traumatic economic measures of questionable tenets, a surging alienation and loss of liberties, a freedom of expression and a public sphere that is increasingly fragmented and reduced to small and hamstrung minorities and women, the Supreme Court judgment on R.K. Pachauri, an ex-male, pronouncing the order on privacy as a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution, comes as a ray of light. In words of stirring passion, Justice J.S. Chandra Bhushan’s judgment makes, “privacy cannot exist without freedom. Privacy is the ultimate expression of the dignity of the individual. It is a constitutional value which stands across the spectrum of fundamental rights and is a sine qua non for the individual’s zone of choice and self-determination. Privacy is not explicitly written about or mentioned in the Constitution; but the two judges—Supreme Court, Chief Justice A.K. Sikri—allude to the Constitution’s role. As Article 21(1) of the Constitution stands, there is no privacy, per se, but the right to life and personal liberty. The two judges, with their wealth of experience, nuance the concept of privacy and its implications. The two judges, with their wealth of experience, nuance the concept of privacy and its implications. Privacy and democracy

Privacy is a concept that is not new, but an evolution of democracy. In the American Constitution (Fourth Amendment), it flows close to that of liberty, security and privacy. In the Indian Constitution (Article 21), it flows close to that of liberty, security and privacy. In any democracy, this is a fundamental concept in political freedom, essential for political and cultural democracy. It is, however, a rather complex and nuanced concept. In British law, for instance, privacy is not just a matter of personal data protection, but a matter of control over personal information and physical privacy. In India, the right to privacy is enshrined in the Constitution, but it is not as clear-cut as in other democracies. The Supreme Court judgment on Pachauri, for instance, is a landmark judgment that brings the concept of privacy to the fore. It is a judgment that is not just about the Pachauri case, but about the broader concept of privacy in India. It is a judgment that is not just about the Pachauri case, but about the broader concept of privacy in India. It is a judgment that is not just about the Pachauri case, but about the broader concept of privacy in India.

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• The Supreme Court judgment in *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India*, pronouncing the right to privacy as a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution, comes as a ray of light.

• Justice D.Y. Chandrachud’s judgment reads: “Dignity cannot exist without privacy... Privacy is the ultimate expression of the sanctity of the individual. It is a constitutional value which straddles across the spectrum of fundamental rights and protects for the individual a zone of choice and self-determination.”

• Privacy is not explicitly written about or protected in the Constitution, but the nine-judge Supreme Court Bench delineates very carefully how privacy must be presupposed to make sense of Article 19 (freedom of expression, association, residence and occupation), as well as Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty).

• As the lawyer Gautam Bhatia writes, this landmark judgment “will impact the interplay between privacy and transparency and between privacy and free speech; it will impact state surveillance, data collection, and data protection, LGBT rights, the legality of food bans, the legal framework for regulating artificial intelligence, as well as many other issues that we cannot now foresee or anticipate.”

• Mahatma Gandhiji’s swaraj means “self-rule”, “self-determination” or “the sovereignty of the self”.

• Gandhi had warned in his seminal tract, *Hind Swaraj*, that it wouldn’t be enough to merely replace British rulers with Indian ones. For swaraj to really come about, it would have to fashion itself as an equal and opposite force to British Raj, not just materially but also morally.
For a knowledge economy
India needs to do more than just pour money into higher education institutions

Mitra Kaphlechan & Raylechran

India plans to pump in over 10,000 crore to build 20 world-class higher education institutions. However, for knowledge to translate into a wealthy society, we need to do more than just this; we need to create a conducive knowledge ecosystem, which is currently missing from our national plans. Institutions of higher education help in creating such an ecosystem, and improve a nation's productivity and wealth.

By the 1960s, American economists such as Kenneth Arrow and Robert Solow had begun to notice that growth and productivity could not be explained only by capital and labor. This differential they attributed to the knowledge content of an economy. Today, knowledge-intensive and high-technology industries constitute the most in long-term growth. It is no accident that the U.S. accounts for 33% of global output of knowledge-intensive services, China 9%, but India only 2%. In high-technology manufacturing, India barely exists.

It is here that institutions step in. The creation of a knowledge ecosystem that allows for robust institutions that focus on information gathering, planning, research, teaching, credit supply, and ensuring that people are filled with hope rather than despair for the society in which they live will make society wealthier. Institutions can generate an ecosystem for innovation in many ways, by providing access to knowledge capital, an atmosphere of inquiry, and an experimental environment where these ideas can be tested. Given that the success rate of ideas is rather low, idea need to be tested constantly. Funding enters the picture only after all this is done. For reality testing, we need collaboration between academic researchers and the users of that knowledge, industry, and government. It is this interface that is rather weak in India.

The heartening thing is that even with a rather low funding to research as a percentage of GDP, with very low Indians taking to formal learning and research, India still accounted for 4.4% of the global output of science research publications in 2003. Translating this research into technology remains the weak link. For that to happen, the latest suggestion in the chulabose-based credit system is to include project work at all levels in higher education institutions.

We also need to ensure ease in movement of personnel between universities and industry. However, there are two obstacles in facilitating this. One, outdated service conditions in the government sector discriminate against people who make such lateral shifts. Two, completely artificial labels exist that distinguish between private and government-owned entities in funding for higher education. Institutions like the Indian Institute of Science, the Indian Institute of Technology, and Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore are all proof that such categories make little difference to the quality of research and graduate outcomes. We need to provide more autonomy to public institutions in hiring and firing people. And once an institution is given autonomy, we need to ensure that it is utilized for the purpose given.

Mitra Kaphlechan is an IAS officer. M. Kaphlechan is a professor of Contemporary Indian History, Ramjas University, Chandigarh.
• India plans to pump in over Rs 10,000 crore to build **20 world-class higher education institutions**.

• Create a conducive knowledge ecosystem: **Currently missing**

• Today, **knowledge-intensive** and **high-technology** industries contribute the most to long-term growth.
  
  • It is no accident that the U.S. accounts for 33% of global output of knowledge-intensive services, China 10%, but India only 2%.
  
  • In high-technology manufacturing, India barely exists.
Fewer GST slabs possible after rise in revenue

- Finance Minister said that there is scope for lesser slabs under the GST once there is revenue buoyancy.
- FM said there is space for improvement and also need for improvement to reduce compliance burden on small taxpayers.
- Addressing the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers at Faridabad in Haryana, the FM said indirect tax burden is borne by all sections of society and it is always government's endeavour to bring down tax rates on items of mass consumption.
- Mr. Jaitley said when people have the right to demand development, they also have the responsibility to pay taxes for it.
- FM said revenue is the lifeline of governance and all the developmental activities.
- Mr Jaitley said India can leapfrog into a category of a developed economy only if it acquires that kind of revenue.
India in a battle for cleanliness: Kovind

• President, Ram Nath Kovind today said that a **healthy** and **prosperous** India will be built only on the foundations of a **clean India**.

• The President was speaking at a function in Mumbai to declare **Urban Maharashtra as Open Defecation Free**.

• He said it is a **big step** in the direction of **New India** by **2022**, conceived by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

• Mr Kovind said declaration of 'ODF' Urban Maharashtra is particularly relevant for the state as **49%** of Maharashtra's people live in urban areas.

• Keeping the environment dirty is a **curse** to any society as it spreads diseases and decreases the overall productivity thereby **decreasing GDP of the nation**.

• Shirdi airport has been developed by Maharashtra Airport Development Company with an investment of Rupees 350 crore along with a **modest contribution** of Rupees 50 crore by Shri Sai Sansthan of Shirdi.

• President Ramnath Kovind said, the air facility will **boost religious tourism** as well as **development** of the region.
Immigration for Myanmar and Bangladesh

- The Home Ministry said, it has designated Zorinpui land check post in Lawngtlai district of Mizoram as an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers to or from Myanmar.

- It has also designated Kawrpuichhuah land check post in Lunglei district of Mizoram as an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India to or from Bangladesh.
• The opening of immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar & Bangladesh is a sigh of relief for the people of Mizoram as it fulfills the long cherished aspirations of the people of the state.

• The two immigration check posts will definitely help in checking illegal smugglings and illegal immigrants which often make news and create political storm in the state.

• Experts feel that immigration check posts may also be opened at Champhai bordering Myanmar.

• It may be noted that Mizoram shares 318 kms long border with Bangladesh and 404kms long border with Myanmar.
Floods in Assam

- In Assam, nearly **80k** people are reeling under the fury of floods in 5 districts.
- Official sources said that nearly **9k** people are taking shelter at relief camps in worst hit Goalpara district.
- Surging waters damaged roads, bridges and culverts in Goalpara, Hojai and Karbi Anglong district.
- SDRF teams have been deployed in relief and rescue operation.
Catalans defy Madrid to vote in referendum

• In Spain, at least 337 people were injured in clashes in Catalonia today amid the referendum on the region's independence from Spain.

• Spanish riot police fired rubber bullets and forced their way into activist-held polling stations as thousands flooded the streets to vote in an independence referendum banned by Spain's Central Government.

• Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont condemned the action of federal police and said the unjustified use of violence by the Spanish state will not stop the will of the Catalan people.
‘Monsoon below normal’

- The southwest monsoon was “below normal” this year, Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary M. Rajeevan said on Sunday.
- Mr. Rajeevan said this may impact the agriculture sector in some parts of the country. The official said: “Monsoon was 95% of the Long Period Average (LPA), which is below normal.”
- Anything between 96 to 104% of the LPA is considered as a “normal” monsoon.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had revised the monsoon forecast to 98 per cent of the LPA in June after earlier pegging it at 96 per cent.
- The monsoon was not that bad and there was also no reason to expect drought in parts of the country, Mr. Rajeevan said.
Questions

1. Name the Union Territories with Lt. Governors.

2. Observe the statement and state if it is True or False: There is a rigorous process in the Constitution of India in regards to the removal of the Governor of a State.

3. Arrange the given below water sources in ascending order in terms of their quantity:
   - Ocean, Rivers, Atmosphere, Inland seas and salt lakes, Ice-caps

4. What is the full form of SAMPADA scheme? Give 5 points in its favour.