

DRUG TRAFFICKING AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Drug trafficking has emerged as one of the most significant threats to national security across the globe. While the consequences of drug abuse on public health and social well-being are well-documented, its implications for national security are often underemphasized. The convergence of criminal enterprises, insurgent groups, and terrorism with the drug trade has profound implications for the stability, safety, and sovereignty of nations. As drug trafficking networks expand, they undermine the rule of law, destabilize governments, fuel corruption, and even contribute to violent conflicts, threatening not only individual lives but national integrity.

One of the most alarming aspects of drug trafficking is its connection with terrorist and insurgent organizations. Many such groups finance their operations through the profits derived from the illicit drug trade. This is particularly evident in regions like Afghanistan, Colombia, and Myanmar, where groups such as the Taliban, FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), and the Golden Triangle drug syndicates exploit the high demand for narcotics.

In Afghanistan, for instance, the Taliban has funded much of its insurgency through the cultivation of opium poppies and the subsequent trade of heroin. The vast profits generated from the drug trade allow these terrorist organizations to purchase weapons, recruit fighters, and strengthen their hold on regions, further destabilizing the country and undermining efforts for peace.

Drug trafficking organizations often possess immense financial resources, enabling them to corrupt public officials, law enforcement agencies, and even military personnel. This systemic corruption erodes the effectiveness of law enforcement and hinders anti-drug initiatives. As traffickers bribe their way through the system, judicial processes become compromised, resulting in a weakening of the state's authority.

In countries where drug cartels have significant influence, corruption becomes endemic. The Mexican drug war, for instance, is a testament to the dangers posed by the entwinement of drug cartels and government institutions. When national security forces are bribed or intimidated into silence or complicity, it undermines the state's ability to enforce laws, leading to lawlessness, chaos, and the erosion of national security.

Drug trafficking also represents a direct challenge to national sovereignty, particularly in countries with porous borders. Criminal organizations exploit weak border controls to traffic drugs across countries, with little regard for sovereignty or international laws. The cross-border nature of drug trafficking means that it often involves transnational criminal syndicates operating across multiple countries and regions, further complicating national security efforts.

Drug trafficking is no longer just a social issue or a law enforcement problem; it is a serious threat to national security that impacts governance, economic stability, and the very fabric of society.

Human Metapneumovirus: Prepare, not Panic

■ **DR. JAYCHANDRAN, DR. KRISHNA, DR. SHALLI, DR. PRATEEK BOBHATE, DR. SAMRITI GUPTA, DR. GAURAV GUPTA, DR. MANISH RANJAN**
A Rising Concern in Global Health

Respiratory infections remain a leading cause of illness and death worldwide, especially among children under the age of five. Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), a relatively unknown virus identified in the Netherlands in 2001, has emerged as a significant contributor to acute respiratory infections (ARI). Studies suggest that HMPV has been responsible for respiratory illnesses globally for at least 50 years.

Global and Seasonal Patterns

While HMPV infections can occur year-round, peak incidence typically occurs in late winter and early spring in the Northern Hemisphere and during June to July in the Southern Hemisphere. The virus has four subgroups (A1, A2, B1, B2), none of which are associated with more severe symptoms than the others. Recent reports indicate a rise in HMPV infections in China, especially in the northern regions, with children aged 14 and under being most affected.

The Indian Scenario

HMPV is not new to India. India has not witnessed any sudden surge in influenza-like illnesses due to HMPV, according to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). However, the virus is prevalent, and cases of respiratory illnesses linked to HMPV have been reported in several states. In India, a recent study conducted at JIPMER, Puducherry, highlighted the evolving nature of the virus. The study, which analyzed over 4,500 nasal swab samples between January 2021 and June 2024, identified novel strains A2.2.1 and A2.2.2. The study noted a significant outbreak from November 2022 to March 2023, with most cases reported in December and January.

How the Virus Spreads and Impacts the Body

HMPV spreads through respiratory droplets, close contact with infected individuals, or contact with contaminated surfaces. Once inside the body, the virus attaches to the cells of the upper respiratory tract using fusion proteins, facilitating viral entry.

Upon entry, the virus replicates and triggers both innate and adaptive immune responses. The body produces cytokines and interferons to fight the infection. However, the virus can evade the immune system by suppressing certain immune responses.

Recognizing the Symptoms

The most common symptoms include fever, nasal congestion, cough, and wheezing. In severe cases, HMPV can cause bronchiolitis, pneumonia, and asthma exacerbations.

HMPV infections are often indistinguishable from other respiratory viruses like RSV and influenza. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines influenza-like illness (ILI) as a sudden fever above 38°C, cough, and sore throat within the last 10 days.

The symptoms are mild in nature among most of the healthy individuals. However, certain groups of individuals are at high risk of having severe illness with HMPV like children less than 1-year, premature babies, both children and adults with chronic heart, lung and neurological diseases and immunocompromised individuals.

Diagnosis and Treatment

Molecular diagnosis by use of RT-PCR is the recommended method for diagnosis, and the results can be obtained within few hours. Currently, there is no specific antiviral treatment for HMPV. Supportive care, including the use of corticosteroids and bronchodilators to manage airway inflammation, remains the primary approach. Research on monoclonal antibodies and antiviral drugs is ongoing but has yet to yield definitive treatment options. . At present, no vaccine is currently available for the prevention of HMPV.

Preventive Measures

The best defence against HMPV is good hygiene practices, including:

- Regular handwashing.

- Use of face masks when in crowded places
- Avoiding close contact with sick individuals.
- Covering the mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing.
- Staying home when experiencing cold-like symptoms.

Looking Ahead

Although HMPV is not as well-known as RSV or influenza, it poses a similar threat, particularly to vulnerable populations like young children, older adults, and immunocompromised individuals. Continued surveillance and research are essential to better understand the virus and develop effective vaccines and treatments. Public health campaigns promoting preventive measures could significantly reduce the spread of this emerging respiratory pathogen.

Human metapneumovirus summary	
<div><div>► Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), a paramyxovirus causing acute respiratory infections.</div><div>► Worldwide distribution: Primarily affecting children less than 5 years of age causing Bronchiolitis, Exacerbation of asthma and Pneumonia.</div><div>► In adults, manifests from common cold to acute respiratory distress syndrome.</div></div>	<div><div>► Diagnosis by RT-PCR using nasopharyngeal swabs/sputum.</div><div>► Treatment is mostly supportive</div><div>► Immunosuppressed patients may require hospitalization.</div><div>► Prevention is best achieved by frequent hand washing, use of masks in crowded places and cough etiquettes</div></div>
Preventive measures	
Do's	Don'ts
Practice good hand hygiene: Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.	Don't share personal items: Avoid sharing utensils, cups, and towels with others.
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing. Dispose of used tissues immediately and wash your hands.	Don't touch your face with unwashed hands: Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
Avoid close contact with sick individuals: consider wearing mask	Don't self-medicate: Avoid taking over-the-counter medications without consulting a doctor.
Stay home if you're sick: consider wearing mask	Don't ignore worsening symptoms: If your symptoms worsen or you experience new symptoms, seek medical attention promptly.
Stay hydrated: Drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration.	Don't spread misinformation and panic
Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, and countertops.	
Seek medical attention if symptoms worsen: If you experience severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, high fever, or wheezing, seek medical attention immediately.	
Strengthen your immune system: Maintain a healthy lifestyle by eating a balanced diet, getting enough sleep, and exercising regularly.	
Stay informed: Stay up-to-date on the latest information about HMPV from reliable sources	

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True to his name, Inqalaab guides marginalised communities towards literacy

■ **CH. RASHID AZAM INQLABI**

The person who has advocated for the education of down trodden and poor. The person who was of the opinion that without education one cannot achieve his goal of life and prosperity. Further, he has advocated for brother hood of mankind, secularism, democracy. The then Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Jnab Bakshi Gulam Mohammed announced the mandate of Rajouri and Derhal assembly constituency in favour of person of his choice ignoring the majority Gujjar community. A tall and well-educated person stood up and raised the Slogan " Rai Amma Ka Ahtram Karoo" in public against the decision of distribution of mandate in dictator way.

Comrade Gulam Qader of Thanamandi also stood up and sported the young man. This slogan was became so popular that in all the meetings addressed by Prime Minister Bakshi Gulam Mohd at Budhal, Derhal, Mandher and Poonch people raised the slogan " Rai Amma Ka Ahtram Karoo". This young person was known as Faiz Hussain Inqlab.

Faiz Hussain Inqlab was born in the Gujjar family of Mian Habib Dehydar somewhere in the first decade of the 20th century in the village of Panhid, District Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir State. His date of birth reportedly is 1915. Initially, he got his education at home from his father Mian Habib Sahib who is among 35 Khlifa of Baba ji Sahib Larvi(RA).

Thereafter, Inqlab left for Punjab being the center of education of that time, Faiz Hussain Inqlab was eldest son of Mian Habib , the other brothers and sister are Abdul Haq (Who died in teenaged), Mohammed Jamil, Ruqia

begum and Fatima.

Mohd Jamil is survived by former registrar of BGSB University Prof Mohd Rashid . Ruqia Bugum married to Satter Din of Sialsui and Fatima Begum to the Molvi Lal Din of Rajpur Kamila in Tehsil Nowshera, Rajouri .

In Panjab he met Dr.Allama Iqbal(RA) popularly known as Shair-e - Mashrik. The Faiz Hussain Inqlab traveled in his childhood throughout India and observed that nation was not only facing starvation , the barriers of slavery, but also the pinch of illiteracy, landlords, and black marketing, sood khori. Mian Nizam ud Din , Ch.Gulam Hussain lassanvi, Ch.Devan Ali and Maulana Mehar Din Qamer were the prominent Gujjar leaders who were putting up their efforts for bringing Gujjar Community out from the barrier of slavery.

The youth of Gujjar community like, Faiz Hussain Inqlab, Rana Fazzal Hussain & Ch. Wazir Mohd Haqla, Ch. Maqbool of Rajouri also played a vital role for the education and creating awareness among the masses. The personality of Inqlab sahib reveals that he was a great intellectual, educationist, social reformer and a competent man of principles.

The circumstantial situation compelled Inqlab to be vigilant in all respects, otherwise, if circumstances would have favored him in any of the fields of politics, education, literature, social service, struggle for freedom, etc. he would have proved himself to be the most successful person in the community.

On the contrary, he excelled in his contemporaries. This way he played his role in performing his social responsibilities. The analysis of his life career reveals that he shared his strug-

gle for freedom. Many a time, he was seen in the company of Sir, Dr. Alama Iqbal and Maulana Ab-ul-Kalam-Azad with the interior to gain knowledge and experience during the time of struggle for freedom. Later Faiz Hussain Inqlab was detained in Kolkata and put in Meerut Jail along with Maulana Azad where his thoughts and standard of confidence were strengthened.

Regarding his urge for knowledge of poetry, he used to visit Sir, Alama Iqbal who had already been imprisoned. He was a fan of Alama Iqbal and came back after seeking an interpretation of the verse "para hai charkha neli fam s manzil musliman ki".

During the Second World War, he along with the British Army was imprisoned by the Japanese and after facing all the treatment of battle prisoners, they were dropped at Karachi airport where he got the opportunity to visit the grave of Alama Iqbal in Lahore. He also used the stage of the communist party to raise slogans in favor of a miserable community. He also wrote prose viz a viz poetry would that had written his literature. He might have done excellently. Despite that fact, whatever his stanza of inscriptions is available reveals that he felt pain for the Gujjar community. There are only two popular books published so far out of all the inscriptions.

The books are " Maa aur Mitti" & "Dastan e Razia Beti", There are other publications shown by his counterpart late Sh. Sarwari Kasana in publications like "Nawa-a-Qoom & the Gujjar Desh". Though he has the best contribution in Gojri yet late Sarwari Kassana has highlighted his contribution.

HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS CONTRIBUTION:

Once Maulana Azad suffered from fever, he was unconscious in Kolkata jail: (Faiz Hussain Inqlab) pressed his head and feet. Thereafter, they were shifted by rail from Kolkata jail to Meerut Jail but in the meantime, Inqlab fell ill and got unconscious due to high temperature.

The moment he gain consciousness he saw that Maulana was pressing his feet in response to the exercise he did and Inqlab requested him (Maulana Azad) not to plunge into sins. But, Maulana Azad replied that he was responding to his goodness which I had rendered on him.

During the disturbance of 1947 Inqlab left for Pakistan, but soon after the patriotic affection and love for his birth place compelled him to return to Rajouri in 1954 like Late Jb. Lassanvi Sahib.

Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir once want to sunab Inqlab sahib by asking Kab Ayea Ho (means from Pakistan) but Inqlab Sahib replied " Ek Daffa 47 Mian Aya Tha Dobarra Aney Walla Hun" Bakshi sb was impressed by hearing the reply from Inqlab sahib" once in 1947 and Now coming back again".

Bakshi sahib became so fan of him that Bakshi sahib appointed Inqlab sahib as social welfare officer, then and there. He got wedded to Rashim Bi in his village, but remained deprived of issues.

He left behind an adopted Daughter Razia Sultana that is why he kept the title of his book in the name of his adopted daughter "Dastan e Razia Beti". Faiz Husain Inqlab was trying his best to awaken and educate the Gujjar Community particularly youth. Inqlab became

so famous among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir , the educated youth fell privileged to write Inqlab or inqlabi with their name , Such as Gulam Hassan Inqlabi of Kupwara , Azam Inqlabi of Balakote, Mushtaq Inqlabi a BJP young leader from Rajouri, Farooq Inqlabi of Kotranka, late Faiz Hussain Inqlab of Mangota Thanamandi, Mohd Khaliq Inqlabi, former Sarpanch of Kotdhara , Bsharat Hussain Inqlabi senior KAS officer .

Inqlab breathed his last on 12th January 1975 and was buried in his native village Panihad, Rajouri. His untimely death deprived the community of pondering over contemporary thought.

However, Rana Fazal Hussain the Baba-a-Gojari has expressed his grief and wrote bait in memory of Inqlab Sahib:

(FAIZ HUSSAIN REY TERI YAAD AWEY KHOO KHASLAT TERI YARRA PHULTI NHI).

The Jammu and Kashmir Cultural Academy also published a Book " Gojri Ga Lal" in memory of Faiz Hussain Inqlab Ex-cabinet Minister, former member of Parliament Ch. Talib Hussain , Hassan Din Parwaz renowned Gojri writer, Prof. Mirza Khan Waqar , Late Ch. Yaqoob Bhati renowned Gurjar leader, Late Ch. Gulzar Ahmed Khatana former MLC, DR. Rafiq Anjum, Ch. Anwar Hussain, Ch Youns Rabbani ,Late Manzoor Hussain Gulshan also pen down article on CH Fiaz Hussain Inqlabi.

The best way to pay the homage to Inqlab sahib is that we should work for the upliftment of poor, down trodden and people living in far-flung area.

(The author is former KAS officer)

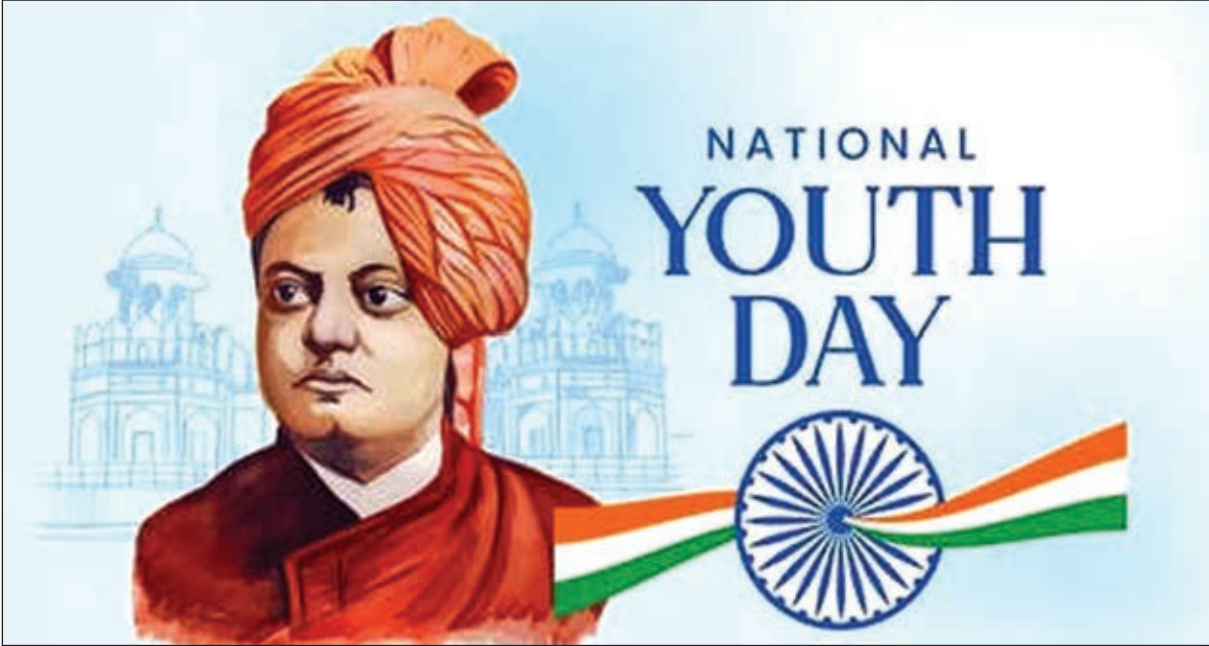
Celebrating Energy, Ideas and Dreams

■ **PROF (DR.) VIKAS SHARMA & DR. ABEEDA MUSHTAQ**

National Youth Day, also known as Yuva Divas is celebrated annually on January 12th in India with enthusiasm and reverence, serving as a tribute to the incredible energy, creativity and potential that young people bring to society. In India, this day is of particular importance as it marks the birth anniversary of Swami

Vivekananda, a renowned visionary whose teachings emphasized youth empowerment and spiritual growth. Swami Vivekananda's inspiring life continues to motivate young minds to work towards a better and more inclusive society. The day is observed with enthusiasm, bringing communities together to recognize the significance of nurturing and empowering young individuals to drive meaningful change.Swami Vivekananda's contributions to society, particularly his emphasis on education, self-reliance and moral values, made him an enduring symbol of youth empowerment. He believed that young people held the key to transforming the world and often addressed the need for their active involvement in nation-building. His famous speech at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893, where he eloquently introduced Indian philosophy and spirituality to a global audience, showcased his belief in the power of youth to foster understanding and unity.

Youth are the backbone of any nation & their energy, innovation and resilience make them uniquely equipped to address some of the most pressing global challenges. Whether it's combating climate change, driving technological advancements or advocating for social justice, young people are at the forefront of change. National Youth Day underscores the importance of nurturing this potential and creating an environment where young minds can thrive. It serves as a call to action for governments, organizations and communities to provide opportunities for youth development, education and leadership. Empowering young people is not just an investment in their future, but also a pathway to sustainable growth and progress for society as a whole. The teachings of Vivekananda are particularly relevant in the modern era, where youth face unique challenges and



opportunities. Rapid technological advancements, globalization and social change have created a dynamic environment, offering both prospects for growth and obstacles to overcome. Vivekananda's message of self-belief and focus provides valuable guidance for navigating this complexity. By adopting his principles, young people can cultivate a sense of purpose, channel their energy into meaningful pursuits and contribute to the greater good.

National Youth Day is not only a celebration of young people but also a reminder of the critical role they play in shaping the future. With their creativity and innovative spirit, they have the potential to drive progress in every sphere of life. For instance, in the fields of science and technology, young innovators are pushing boundaries

and creating solutions to pressing global issues. In the realm of social advocacy, youth activists are leading movements for equality, climate action and human rights, inspiring communities to take action. Their contributions to culture and the arts, reflect the vibrancy and diversity of modern societies, preserving traditions while embracing progress.National Youth Day is also a time to address the challenges faced by young people, including unemployment, mental health issues and societal pressures. The fast-paced nature of modern life often places immense stress on the youth, making it essential to prioritize their well-being. Creating supportive networks, promoting open dialogue about mental health and encouraging self-care, can help young people to build resilience and

thrive. Governments, institutions and communities must work together to ensure that youth have access to resources and support systems that enable them to overcome these challenges and reach their full potential.

The spirit of National Youth Day lies in its ability to inspire and unite. It encourages young people to believe in themselves and their ability to make a difference. By celebrating their achievements and recognizing their contributions, society reaffirms its commitment to nurturing the leaders, innovators and change-makers of tomorrow. The day serves as a platform for dialogue and collaboration, bringing together diverse voices to envision a future shaped by the aspirations and talents of young people.The decision to dedicate January 12th to the youth of India was particularly meaningful, as Swami Vivekananda spent much of his life advocating for their empowerment. He believed that a nation's strength lay in its younger generation and emphasized their role in driving societal progress. His message, "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached," serves as an enduring reminder of his vision for the youth to take charge of their destiny and work towards a better future.

As we celebrate National Youth Day, it is important to remember that the energy and passion of youth are not bound by age. The values of self-belief, perseverance and social responsibility championed by Swami Vivekananda can inspire individuals of all generations. By embracing these principles and working together, we can create a world where every young person has the opportunity to flourish, making their dreams a reality and driving progress for all. National Youth Day is more than a celebration; it is a call to action. It reminds us of the limitless potential of young people and the collective responsibility to support and empower them. As we honor the legacy of Swami Vivekananda, let us commit to investing in the youth, nurturing their talents and creating a society where they can thrive. By doing so, we can unlock the transformative power of the younger generation, building a future that is brighter, more inclusive and full of promise.

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