

## CRACKDOWN ON DRUG TRAFFICKERS

The menace of drug trafficking has emerged as one of the gravest threats to social stability, public health, and national security. What was once considered a marginal criminal activity has today evolved into a highly organized, transnational network that feeds on human vulnerability, corrodes institutions, and destroys the future of entire generations. Strong and sustained action against drug traffickers is no longer a choice-it is an urgent necessity.

Drug trafficking is not merely a law-and-order issue; it is a multi-dimensional crisis. The easy availability of narcotics fuels addiction, particularly among youth, leading to broken families, rising crime, mental health disorders, and economic decline. Behind every trafficker stands a chain of suffering-students dropping out of schools, families pushed into despair, and communities living under the shadow of fear and moral decay. When drug money enters the system, it often finances other crimes such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal arms trade, and money laundering, further destabilizing society.

In recent years, decisive action by law enforcement agencies has shown that firm resolve can yield results. Increased seizures, preventive detentions, attachment of illegally acquired properties, and the dismantling of organized drug networks signal that the state is serious about enforcing a zero-tolerance policy. Laws such as the NDPS Act provide strong legal tools, but their effectiveness depends on timely investigation, scientific evidence, and successful prosecution. Strict bail opposition, financial investigation of drug proceeds, and coordinated intelligence-sharing have proven crucial in choking the supply chains.

However, enforcement alone cannot win this battle. Drug trafficking thrives where social vulnerabilities exist-unemployment, lack of awareness, peer pressure, and easy access to substances. Therefore, action against traffickers must go hand in hand with preventive and rehabilitative measures. Awareness campaigns in schools and colleges, community vigilance, and active participation of parents, teachers, and religious and social organizations are vital. Society must stop glorifying substance abuse and instead promote healthy alternatives through sports, skill development, and employment opportunities.

# A Living Legacy of Knowledge: The Priceless Library of Amar Mahal

■ SSP VIKRAM SINGH JAMWAL



Perched majestically on a hill overlooking the River Tawi, the Amar Mahal Palace is widely admired for its striking French chateau architecture and royal heritage. Yet beyond its golden throne, regal portraits and panoramic views lies a treasure often less spoken of but equally priceless - the Amar Mahal Palace Library, one of the most significant private libraries in Jammu & Kashmir.

Established after the palace was converted into a museum in 1975 by Dr. Karan Singh, the library reflects a deep reverence for scholarship, culture and intellectual pursuit that defined the Dogra royal household. Spread across the upper floors of the palace, the library houses nearly 25,000 carefully curated books, making it a rare cultural asset in the region.

**A Collection Shaped by Royal Scholarship:** The foundation of the library rests on the personal collection of Raja Amar Singh, augmented over decades by books collected by Dr. Karan Singh, a renowned scholar, philosopher and statesman. Together, these collections form a body of knowledge that spans centuries, continents and disciplines.

Unlike modern libraries built for volume, the Amar Mahal Library is distinguished by depth and diversity, representing a refined intellectual tradition where reading was considered an essential part of governance, spirituality and cultural



understanding. **Subjects That Span Civilizations:** The library's holdings cover a wide range of subjects, with particular strength in religion, philosophy, history, politics and literature.

A significant portion of the collection is devoted to Indian philosophy and religion, including authoritative works on the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Vedanta, Shaivism and Buddhism. Comparative religion is another major theme, with texts exploring Christianity, Islam and world spiritual traditions, reflecting a broad, inclusive worldview.

Equally impressive is the history and political science section, which includes books on ancient Indian history, the freedom movement, constitutional studies and global political thought. Works by thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle,

Machiavelli and John Locke sit alongside Indian intellectual classics like Jawaharlal Nehru's The Discovery of India, symbolising the confluence of Eastern and Western thought. Literature: From Classics to Modern Voices: The literary section features Indian and international classics, including novels, poetry and essays that shaped literary movements of their time. Works of Indian English literature, alongside celebrated Western authors such as Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Leo Tolstoy and Victor Hugo, form an integral part of the collection. Many of these volumes are old editions, lending them both literary and historical value.

**Rare and Antique Volumes:** Perhaps the most captivating aspect of the Amar Mahal Library is its rare and antique books. These include early print editions,

scholarly commentaries and volumes that are no longer in circulation. Some books date back over a century and bear the marks of careful preservation, making them invaluable for researchers and historians.

Due to their fragile nature, many of these works are preserved under controlled conditions, underscoring the library's role not just as a reading space but as a custodian of heritage.

**A Cultural Beacon, Not Just a Library:** The Amar Mahal Library is more than a collection of books - it is a living symbol of Jammu's intellectual and cultural legacy. In an age dominated by digital screens, its quiet halls remind visitors of a time when ideas were nurtured through contemplation, reading and dialogue.

For scholars, students and culturally inclined visitors, the library offers a rare opportunity to engage with knowledge in its most classical form. For tourists, it adds a profound intellectual dimension to their visit, complementing the palace's artistic and architectural grandeur.

**Preserving the Past for the Future:** As Amar Mahal continues to attract visitors from across India and abroad, its library stands as a silent yet powerful testament to the Dogra dynasty's commitment to learning and enlightenment. Preserving and promoting this treasure is not merely about safeguarding old books - it is about protecting the intellectual soul of the region.

In the quiet rustle of its pages, the Amar Mahal Palace Library continues to tell stories - not just of kings and scholars, but of a civilisation that believed knowledge to be its greatest wealth.

(Author is retired Senior Superintendent of Police, J&K and Secretary Amar Mahal Museum & Library)

## Kidnapping a Head of a State: A Dangerous Development

■ RAMESHWAR SINGH JAMWAL

The recent actions by America in kidnapping Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife is a dangerous development concerning the forcible apprehension of a Head of State; may be a weaker state, by American forces and has raised grave concerns for the international community. UNSC has called an emergency meeting, North Korea's President Kim Jong Un has issued stern warning, China and Russia are extremely unhappy and there are many other nations and leaders who are feeling threatened. If such actions are accepted as legitimate instruments of state policy, as is being done by some western nations, they would strike at the very foundation of international law, the United Nations system, and the established norms of diplomacy painstakingly evolved after the devastation of two World Wars.

From the perspective of a student of international law, criminology, and the United Nations framework, such an act, when carried out without lawful international authorization cannot be termed as anything other than illegal, unilateral, and deeply destabilizing.

The Charter of the United Nations was framed and signed on June 26, 1945, at the San Francisco Conference in the United States itself, and came into force and officially established the United Nations on October 24, 1945, after ratification by founding member states. The establishment of the UN is the cornerstone of the modern international legal order. Article 2(4) of the Charter categorically prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. The forcible abduction of a sitting Head of State from sovereign territory squarely violates this prohibition and needs condemnation by all nations. It's time for UN to show its strength. Article 2(7) of UN Charter is equally important, which bars intervention in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a State. Regime dissatisfaction by local populace, political disagreement of opposing parties at their national level, or allegations of wrongdoing by any Head of a State do not create a legal licence for external coercive action by other state. Equally important to note is the fact that certain invisible forces may have influenced the grant of recent Nobel Prize, to an unknown Venezuelan, who is being projected to take over the regime in Venezuela.

The UN under its charter provides under Article 51 the only exception, which permits use of force in self-defence against an armed attack. But by no means this credible legal argument can stretch this provision to justify the kidnapping of a foreign President and his spouse.

Is it a Breach of Diplomatic Immunity and State Sovereignty by America:

By long practice, International law accords absolute personal immunity (immunity *ratione personae*) to sitting Heads of State, Heads of Government, and Foreign Ministers. This principle has been firmly entrenched in customary international law and has been affirmed by the International Court of Justice in the Arrest Warrant Case (DRC v. Belgium).

The forcible eviction, detention and trial of a Head of State violates not only sovereignty but also the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, undermining the security guarantees which allows international diplomacy to function. If such unsavory events are allowed to happen and immunity collapses, diplomacy itself becomes hostage to power politics and can



be replicated by many powerful states. There may be countless allegations at international level against many states opposed to each other but it is an established doctrine that even where serious allegations exist against a national leader, international criminal law does not permit unilateral punishment. It is for this purpose that ICJ and ICC were established and the proper forum, the International Criminal Court, functioning under established procedures, evidentiary standards, and the accused's right to defence could have served the purpose if America had a case against Maduro. As already stated if such a practice is allowed to be followed, then there are many other powerful countries including India, that have strong cases against many other weak nations in the neighborhood or may be far away, that are creating trouble at international level. Fundamental principles of international criminal jurisprudence; *nullum crimen sine lege* (no crime without law), *audi alteram partem* (hear the other side), and the presumption of innocence are non-negotiable whatever may be the cost. The subject of Criminology teaches us that abandoning due process does not deliver justice; it institutionalizes injustice which all must avoid.

By acting as investigator, prosecutor, judge, and executioner, America or any other State, however powerful it may be violates the very principles it claims to defend. The Criminological Perspective From a criminological standpoint, such American conduct reflects what eminent scholars term such actions as 'state crime', illegal or deviant acts committed by state agencies in pursuit of perceived national interests. It has been observed that when power replaces law, coercion replaces consent, and narrative replaces evidence and the end result is not accountability but normalization of lawlessness at the highest level. Labeling an individual guilty without trial in a domestic Tribunal, without hearing his version, without impartial adjudication, mirrors precisely the authoritarian practices that liberal democracies like America profess to oppose. Crime control theories warn that 'ends justify means' logic corrodes institutional legitimacy and breeds global insecurity.

International diplomacy has been established and built on predictability, reciprocity, and legal restraint. If powerful States reserve to themselves the right to abduct foreign leaders, weaker States will adopt meaner means and respond not with trust, but with militarization, secrecy, and retaliation. This path leads to global disorder and to international anarchy. International history demonstrates that peace is preserved not by selective enforcement of law, but by uniform submission to law. If today it is Venezuela, tomorrow it could be Iran, North Korea, Ukraine, Greenland or any other nation whose political choices displease a dominant power. Such a precedent will undermine the equality of States, a core principle of the United Nations and would transform international relations into a hierarchy governed by force rather than law.

From my perspective, the solution lies not in unilateral coercion as is being done but in affirmation of and recommitment to international legality that suggest that all international Disputes must be addressed through multilateral institutions, not covert or forceful actions. Allegations against Heads of State must be processed through international judicial mechanisms, ensuring due process and defence rights and The United Nations must assert its authority, resisting erosion by powerful States, enlightened citizens, the Global civil society and the legal professionals must speak out, reaffirming that justice cannot exist without procedure.

The American establishment, by assuming guilt of Maduro and his wife without hearing them, risks condemning not just two individuals but the credibility of the international legal system itself. This is established by threats issued to the new resident of Venezuela.

Finally, no nation however powerful, may be America, China or Russia can be allowed to stand above the law. The true strength of global leadership lies not in the ability to abduct, but in the courage to submit to the same legal standards they demand of others. Only by restoring respect for international law can the world becoming messier and prevent power from becoming the greatest criminal of all.

(The author is an Advocate, President Criminologists Society)

## What NDA did to run MGNREGA better

During the UPA period, there was often no reliable record of whether an asset created under MGNREGA actually existed on the ground. With the introduction of geo-tagging under the NDA, every asset now has photographic and GPS evidence, and more than 6.45 crore assets are available in the public domain. Similarly, Aadhaar integration with NREGASoft was negligible earlier; only about 76 lakh active workers, were seeded in January 2014. Today, Aadhaar seeding has crossed 12.11 crore active workers, which has helped clean the database, remove duplicates, and ensure genuine workers receive wages.

leakages. Wage payments used to be routed manually through multiple layers, but under the NDA, NeFMS has been implemented across all States so that wages go directly into workers' bank accounts. As a result, e-payments through eFMS have improved significantly from only 37% earlier to 99.99% today.

At the Gram Panchayat level, field functionaries earlier had to maintain as many as 22 to 29 registers, which was cumbersome and prone to errors. These have been simplified and reduced to only 7 key registers, already adopted by about 2.50 lakh GPs, easing workload and improving record management.

To strengthen planning and execution, the NDA introduced SECURE (Software for Estimate Calculation Using Rural Rates for Employment), which did not exist earlier

and is now operational in 703 districts across 28 States and 4 UTs. Further, technology-based monitoring systems such as the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App and the Area Officers Monitoring App were launched in May 2021. NMMS enables real-time attendance with geo-tagged photographs at worksites, while the Area Officers App allows officers to record inspection findings online, improving accountability and oversight. Overall, the focus under the NDA has been on transparency, direct benefit to workers, digital monitoring, and strengthening assets on the ground, ensuring MGNREGA delivers better results with greater credibility and efficiency.

**State-wise- Irregularities numbers and recoverable amount**

SR#	State Name	Total number of Cases Reported by SAU	Final Recoverable Amount to be recovered (Rs.)
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	2,45,090	Rs 28,21,49,331
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	516	Rs 85,58,935
3	ASSAM	480	Rs 15,54,459
4	BIHAR	14,403	Rs 3,69,02,048
5	CHHATTISGARH	29,399	Rs 26,53,02,627
6	GOA	0	Rs 0
7	GUJARAT	59	Rs 44,450
8	HARYANA	73	Rs 7,245
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	27,909	Rs 2,82,01,528
10	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	6,041	Rs 1,44,85,751
11	JHARKHAND	45,571	Rs 15,85,86,765
12	KARNATAKA	1,33,021	Rs 44,77,02,817
13	KERALA	21,294	Rs 1,53,87,287
14	LADAKH	0	Rs 0
15	MADHYA PRADESH	17,682	Rs 5,66,31,674
16	MAHARASHTRA	1,767	Rs 1,04,08,261
17	MANIPUR	378	Rs 35,22,359
18	MEGHALAYA	91	Rs 3,23,546
19	MIZORAM	529	Rs 15,84,895
20	NAGALAND	1,938	Rs 53,71,731
21	ODISHA	15,992	Rs 5,59,55,615
22	PUNJAB	10,710	Rs 1,89,88,575
23	RAJASTHAN	1,603	Rs 4,30,52,956
24	SIKKIM	932	Rs 2,10,15,144
25	TAMIL NADU	3,36,564	Rs 1,32,90,42,886
26	TELANGANA	1,59,085	Rs 5,92,86,862
27	TRIPURA	2,756	Rs 2,18,69,610
28	UTTAR PRADESH	23,424	Rs 13,04,73,054
29	UTTARAKHAND	3,105	Rs 38,09,280
30	WEST BENGAL	3,464	Rs 28,14,471
31	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	0	Rs 0
32	DN HAVELI AND DD	0	Rs 0
33	LAKSHADWEEP	0	Rs 0
34	PUDUCHERRY	0	Rs 0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,03,876</b>	<b>Rs 3,02,30,34,162</b>