

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Human life is priceless. Don't waste it. Our life is important not only for us but for our family, society, country - everyone. A little carelessness can invite an accident. Many times, we act in a hurry without being careful and do things that can cause an accident and put our lives in danger. We should always follow safety rules.

The main cause of accidents is inattention and carelessness. By not following traffic rules on the road, we put our lives and those of others at risk. Never do this! These rules have been made for our safety and security. Often, while having a picnic, we become careless and ignore the rules written for safety. Due to this, many people lose their lives every year. It is true - caution is safety.

All the following road safety measures help a lot in avoiding all the road problems. Some effective road safety measures are basic knowledge about the vehicle, defensive driving according to weather and road conditions, use of vehicle lights and horn, wearing seat belt, proper use of vehicle mirror, avoiding over-speeding, road lights. Understanding of traffic, maintaining distance from other vehicles on the road, proper understanding of how to handle troublesome situations, telecast of documentary awareness on TV etc.

There are many ways to create awareness among the general public such as seminars, workshops, student education by adding basic road-safety lessons to the curriculum, Stop, Look, Listen, Think and then Cross i.e. educating people about the Green Cross Code. Become aware, learn traffic lights, understand road signs etc.

It is very good and safe for all people to follow road safety measures throughout their life. Everyone should respect others and take care of their safety while driving or walking.

Urban Farming: Challenges and Opportunities

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

Urban farming is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing of food in and around the urban areas. Unlike traditional farming, which predominantly occurs in rural areas, urban farming takes advantage of available spaces in cities, such as balconies, rooftops, community gardens and vacant lands. It is an innovative approach to address the challenges posed by urbanization, limited land availability and need for sustainable food production. It involves small scale agricultural operations. It is not a new concept. As human population progressed, agriculture was confined in the rural areas while urban population engaged itself in the trading activities. Natural disasters and acts of man such as war encouraged urban population to explore for the urban farming due to the disruption of food supply chain from the rural areas. This was happened in World War I and World War II when the city dwellers were encouraged to grow the food in their open spaces and reduced pressure on rural population. In recent times, former US First Lady, Mrs.Michelle Obama promoted the concept of kitchen garden. This garden has been located in the premises of White House. It was having a beehive and 55 varieties of fruits and vegetables. In present era, urban farming can ensure food security to the urban dwellers. It can cut down the carbon emission by saving the fuel which otherwise is used in the transportation of food items from rural to urban areas. Urban agriculture can reduce the poverty and health issues in the urban areas.

In 1950 the total population of world was 2.6 billion with 800 million in urban centres and 1.8 billion in rural areas. After 100 years e.i. by 2050 we expect 9.2 billion inhabitants with 6.3 billion living in urban areas and only 2.9 billion remaining in the country-side. There is dire need to concentrate on urban environment and food security for the growing population especially in urban areas. Urban agriculture is coming in limelight in the recent years. This has been felt because of (1) Physical and psychological in- and outdoor relaxation for urban people (2) For improving the urban areas environment and (3) For food, income security and provide the fresh vegetables round the year for urban dwellers. According to the United Nations by 2050 more than two-third of population will live in the cities. Urban farming can play a significant role in proving the food to this population. In recent decades urbanization has increased rapidly and this has caused malnutrition in urban areas. There is dire need to pay attention on the food security especially for the urban dwellers. In urban areas there is pressure on the land due to population, construction of buildings, roads etc. But still there remains enough area where the fruits and vegetables can be grown. Moreover, people can grow fruits and vegetables on their roofs. In Singapore 90 per cent of the food is imported and vertical and now-a-days roof top gardening has become very popular. Roof top vegetables gardens provide the fresh organic vegetables. They also ensure a better living environment with cooler indoor temperature and fresh oxygen.

Urban farming plays significant role in ensuring food security in India's urban areas. Urban farming has the potential for transforming our cities into greener, healthier and more self-sufficient spaces. By the urban agriculture, the unused land in the urban areas can be used effectively. Urban farming can improve the food security and nutrition for the urban dwellers. It lowers climate change impacts and also lowers stress. Urban dwellers are also showing keen interest in roof top vegetables gardening. One can use compost and vermicompost to prepare the fertile soil for the roof top vegetables garden. The soil is filled in the pots or grow bags to sow the seeds or seedlings of vegetables. After sowing the seeds the pots are covered with the plants leaves. The leaves act as the mulching material and help in conserving the moisture in the soil. Avoid over watering to the plants as it can rotten the seeds or seedlings. It is very easy to control the insect-pests and diseases in the roof top kitchen gardens. We can use organic inputs such as neem oil, neem cake, fermented butter milk, cow urine, panchgavya etc. in the roof top kitchen garden. Local food can be protected through roof top vegetables gardening. There is need to speed up the urban vegetables production so that fresh nutritious vegetables can be provided to the urban people. There is need of proper policy for urban agriculture so that it can be done in a scientific and systematic way. There should be proper management for the waste-water collection and its treatment in the urban areas. Urban farming connects us with nature and promotes sustainable living and foster a sense of community.

(The writer is Sr. Scientist and Head of KVK, Reasi).

The Deepfake Dilemma: Navigating the Shadows of Synthetic Reality

■ DR. PARVEEN SINGH

In an age where the lines between reality and fabrication are becoming increasingly blurred, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for creating Deepfakes has emerged as a pressing concern. These digitally manipulated videos, often indistinguishable from authentic footage, pose a significant threat to the fabric of truth and trust within society. In this article I will delve into the intricacies of Deepfakes - what they are, how they are created, the challenges in distinguishing between real and fake videos, and the imperative role of media in educating the public. Examining notable instances, including the deepfake video involving Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I have explore the tangible effects on individuals and society, emphasizing the urgency of awareness and counteractive measures.

Understanding Deepfakes: The Technological Mirage

What are Deepfakes? Deepfakes are a form of synthetic media created using AI algorithms, particularly deep learning techniques. These algorithms analyze and manipulate existing audio, video, or image content to generate convincing, but entirely fictitious, material. The term "deepfake" is derived from the amalgamation of "deep learning" and "fake," signifying the depth of the AI's ability to create realistic simulations.

How are Deepfakes Created? The creation of a Deepfake involves training a machine learning model on vast datasets of images or videos of the target person. The model learns the subtle nuances of facial expressions, voice patterns, and mannerisms. Once trained, the AI can generate new content by superimposing the learned features onto existing footage. Deepfake technology has advanced to the point where the generated content is often indistinguishable from authentic recordings.

Distinguishing the Real from the Fake: A Technological Challenge

Challenges in Detection: Detecting Deepfakes

poses a significant challenge due to the sophistication of the underlying AI algorithms. As these algorithms evolve, they become adept at mimicking even the minutest details of a person's appearance and behavior, making it increasingly difficult for human observers to discern between authentic and manipulated content.

Advancements in Detection Technology: Efforts are underway to develop advanced detection technologies capable of identifying Deepfakes. Various companies and research institutions are investing in machine learning algorithms specifically designed to recognize the subtle artifacts and anomalies characteristic of synthetic media. However, the race between creators and detectors remains dynamic, with each side continually innovating to outpace the other.

Media's Role: A Guardian against the Mirage

The Imperative of Media Education: Media organizations play a pivotal role in addressing the deepfake challenge. Educating the public about the existence and implications of deepfake technology is crucial for fostering awareness and resilience. Media literacy programs can empower individuals to critically evaluate content, enabling them to distinguish between authentic and manipulated information. Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi's acknowledgment of Deepfakes as a significant threat underscores the gravity of the issue. His revelation about a deepfake video depicting him participating in a Garba dance during Navratri festivities emphasizes the technology's potential to create compelling yet entirely fictional content. This instance serves as a wake-up call, prompting the need for heightened vigilance and counteractive measures.

Real-Life Examples and Their Far-Reaching Effects

1. Political Manipulation:

During the 2016 U.S. Presidential election, deepfake technology was employed to create fabricated videos and misinformation campaigns, influencing public opinion and potentially impacting the election outcome. The ability to

manipulate political narratives through synthetic media poses a severe threat to the democratic process.

2. Celebrity Impersonations:

Celebrities have become prime targets for deepfake creators. Videos portraying public figures engaging in inappropriate or controversial behavior can harm reputations and lead to real-world consequences. The boundary between reality and fiction blurs, amplifying the potential for character assassination through digital means.

3. Non-Consensual Content:

One of the most egregious applications of deepfake technology is in the creation of non-consensual pornography. Individuals, especially women, can become victims of intimate image misuse, leading to emotional distress, reputational damage, and potential legal ramifications.

Societal Impact: The Ripple Effect of Synthetic Reality

1. Trust Erosion: The proliferation of deepfake content on social media platforms raises concerns about the erosion of trust. When authenticity is constantly in question, individuals may become skeptical of the information they encounter, leading to a broader decline in trust in media, institutions, and even interpersonal relationships.

2. Manipulation and Disinformation: Deepfakes can be weaponized to manipulate public opinion, spread false information, and sow discord within society. The ease with which fabricated content can be disseminated amplifies the potential for orchestrated campaigns to influence narratives on a global scale.

3. Societal Paranoia and Anxiety: As deepfake technology becomes more prevalent, there is a risk of heightened societal paranoia and anxiety. The fear of not being able to distinguish between reality and manipulation can contribute to a climate of uncertainty and apprehension.

Mitigating the Deepfake Threat: Collaborative Solutions

1. Technological Solutions: Investment in detection technologies is critical to staying ahead

of deepfake creators. Collaborations between tech companies, research institutions, and government agencies can drive innovation in algorithms designed to identify and counter synthetic media.

2. Legal Safeguards: The development of comprehensive legal frameworks is essential to deter malicious actors from creating and disseminating deepfake content. Laws should address the unauthorized use of individuals' likenesses and the potential harm caused by synthetic media.

3. Media Literacy Programs: Educational initiatives that enhance media literacy are fundamental in preparing individuals to navigate the digital landscape. These programs should equip the public with the skills to critically assess the authenticity of the content they encounter online.

The Future of Deepfake Technologies: Striking a Balance

As we contemplate the future of deepfake technologies, the dual potential for positive and negative impact becomes apparent. While there is a genuine concern about the misuse of synthetic media, there are also opportunities for positive applications in entertainment, marketing, and other creative fields.

Conclusion: A Call to Vigilance and Responsibility

In conclusion, the deepfake dilemma demands collective action. Media, technology developers, lawmakers, and the public must collaborate to navigate the complex landscape of synthetic reality. Through education, technological innovation, and ethical considerations, we can mitigate the risks posed by deepfake technology and ensure that our society remains resilient in the face of this evolving challenge. The path forward requires a commitment to truth, transparency, and the responsible use of AI, safeguarding the integrity of our shared digital reality.

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Modi's Successful Social Engineering

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Modi is adept and expert in social engineering and has done it well and followed it not only to have won the state elections of the three Hindi heartland states of HP ,Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh but also has eye beyond 2024 on the far off 2029 general elections. At the outset we should know what is social engineering .It is a term which has been used to mean top-down efforts to influence particular attitudes and social behaviors on a large scale-most often undertaken by governments ,but also carried out by media ,academia or private groups- in order to produce desired characteristics in a targeted population .Social engineering is most often used by the political parties in India to influence voters and gain elections and Modi is the best social engineer as he is using social engineering to hilt to gain elections .Modi goes on to create second rung leadership for not only 2024 but for 2029 as well .In fact Modi spells out social engineering mantra for BJP's successes beyond 2024.PM Modi gave a mantra for BJP's successes not only in 2024 but also beyond 2029 in the National Executive Meeting held recently. While all political parties are aiming at the Lok Sabha elections of 2024,the BJP is looking beyond 2029. Recently the executive members were waiting PM Modi to speak more on the current assembly polls ,the PM surprised them all by not talking much on 2024,insteads he did give a peep on the success of BJP beyond 2029.His message was more about bringing people together like reaching out to Muslims ,and communities that have not voted for the saffron party and organiz-

ing festivals like Kashi Tamil Sangamam .The prime minister who has great observation and perseverance ,talked about the cultural events like Kashi Tamil Sangamam that helped in achieving unity among the people of Kashi and Tamil Nadu to celebrate their cultural ties and religious belongingness .This can eventually help people outgrow the language divide ,which has been so strong ,and the north -south divide that has become a character of politics in southern India.PM Modi stressed on organizing more of such events in other states so that there could be more harmony in the country beyond the language ,caste, religion ,culture and tradition barriers .In the previous national executive meeting held in Telangana ,Modi has asked the party leaders to indulge in social engineering and reach out to sub-castes or backward in other communities .These are the people that will make a difference if or when a certain community is upset with the party over any issue .With Modi seeking a third term in 2024 ,the BJP is tasked with expansion to communities like Pasmandas and Bohra Muslims .A clear message has emerged from the national executive meeting to expand the party roots by connecting with people from all communities even if they are not BJP voters .Also giving vision for 2029 and beyond depicts Modi has given the result of Lok Sabha election 2024 in BJP's favor .The party feels that by 2029,it needs to end regional ,caste and linguist divides in the country .Even regional parties will not be a hindrance to the BJP's vision of Bharat .Once the base is strong party will be able to easily implement ideological agendas that have been on its list

since its foundation .The vision of unifying India in true sense is what PM showed to the BJP members in the national executive meeting which was a crucial meeting for the recent state polls .Lok Sabha elections of 2024 .By moulding the BJP as a force OBC empowerment ,Modi has altered traditional caste configuration to his advantage .Even Modi's new /present cabinet is the blend of youth ,skills and social engineering .PM Modi has build his new cabinet with an eye on state elections and to reach out to socially and economically deprived sections. The new union council of ministers has more representation from socially and economically backward communities ,women and people with administrative and legislative experience but above all it is based on social engineering and embraces social engineering .The new team has been built with an eye on the state elections and in line with the party's outreach towards the socially and economically deprived sections ,part of the BJP's social engineering strategy and it has brought the desired fruits to the BJP as it won the crucial assembly elections also on the basis of social engineering strategy .There are 27 ministers from 19 other backward class (OBC's) spread across 15 states ,there are eight ministers from scheduled tribes (ST) from across seven communities and eight states and there are 12 ministers from scheduled castes (SC) from across 12 communities and eight states .The former MP and spokesperson Bizay Sonkar Shastri said, "The BJP walks the talk on inclusivity .We choose to go with the constitutional definition of who can be defined as a minority .While the opposition parties only con-

sider Muslims as minorities ,It is probably for the first time that proper representation has been given to all communities ."The BJP's success in many states has come from consolidating the traditionally fragmented Hindu vote across OBCs and by appealing to SCs /STs .The BJP's mantra is Sabka Saath ,Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas .By giving proportionate representation to OBC's ,SC,s and ST,s in the council of ministers we have followed our mantra. The decision also gives people confidence that PM Modi believes in social justice and when given a chance delivers too .,"said Shastri who is also a former chairman of national commission for SC and ST,BJP's social engineering worries congress .On ground ,BJP works to woo Dalits ,OBCs by handing key posts to them .The developments in Hindi heartland states over the past few months is being seen as a concerted attempt to chip away at caste combinations that are held as key voter base of opposition congress .SP and BSP In what is seen as an attempt to counter the opposition's allegations that BJP -led NDA government is against reservations ,the saffron party is giving representation to leaders from ST,SC and OBC communities in selection for the appointment of governors as well as Raj Sabha and legislative councils in the states ruled by BJP .In short Modi is following social engineering in letter and spirit and it has shown the desired results in winning state assembly elections in three Hindi heartland states of Chhattisgarh ,Rajasthan and MP.

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Parliament Intrusion.... Security Lapse Or Political Misadventure

■ MANMOHAN DHAR

The intrusion into Parliament can be viewed through multiple lenses, making it a complex issue. It could be seen as a security lapse due to potential shortcomings in the security measures in place. Alternatively, it might also be interpreted as a political misadventure depending on the motivations and intentions of those involved in the intrusion.

The characterization of the incident could vary based on the circumstances surrounding it. If the breach occurred due to a failure in security protocols or inadequate measures, it would primarily be labeled as a security lapse. This would raise concerns about the effectiveness of security systems and the need for improvements to prevent such incidents in the future.

On the other hand, if the intrusion was politically motivated, aimed at making a statement or disrupting proceedings for ideological reasons, it would be considered a political misadventure. Such actions could have broader implications for

the political landscape and may lead to debates about the motives behind the intrusion and its potential ramifications on governance and public trust. Understanding the incident requires a thorough investigation into the specifics surrounding the intrusion, including the motives of the individuals involved and any potential vulnerabilities in the security infrastructure.

The arrest of those involved in this dastardly committed crime is undoubtedly a major breakthrough in the matter but investigating agencies will have to have a marathon task at their hands as it looks to be a bigger plot and not just a security breach.

This country has witnessed a lot of Anti national wrath and this one is no less than a properly executed terrorist plot to destabilise the peaceful atmosphere after a successful culmination of all important election in 5 states. We have been talking about the tool kits, the NGOs, foreign elements, Anti national Indians operating on foreign soil, Intelligence agencies of neighbouring coun-

tries and big business tycoons who hate India and are spending money to create disturbances and destroying the stability and peace in the country. All these areas need to be thoroughly probed with a keen intent to reach to a logical conclusion and bring the ugly truth to the fore. Investigating agencies have a gigantic challenge at hand and they have to come out with a solid proof establishing the Actual intent of the culprits.

On the anniversary of Parliament attack on 13th December 2001, it looks as if the conspirators had planned to execute their nefarious plot to intrude into the Parliament in order to make a statement that even after 22 years since terrorists attacked the Parliament with heavy ammunition the security of 542 law makers is not safe. Well, what has happened, is not a joke. And, political parties who are hell bent on proving the fault of each other; should sit and introspect as to what went wrong and what measures need to be put in place so that such terrifying incidents don't get repeated in future. Prime Minister has very right-

ly said that all Parliamentarians need to be cautious and alert. In fact every member of Parliament owes a responsibility not only towards Nation but also towards the safety and security of their fellow parliamentarians.

Whatever the case may be, security system of the Parliament House and for that matter of all other important places and establishments need to be tightened and made absolutely fool proof. India has been on a path of development in every aspect of life, and if incidents of this magnitude happen where every citizen will feel unsafe and helpless, then in that case it is a very sad state of affairs. Something everyone should feel ashamed of. It is not Modi or his Government who alone can put the system in place. It is a collective, sincere and proactive approach on part of every responsible citizen to see to it that we are not subjected to such a dangerous and catastrophic crisis ever again.

Nation first has inevitably become now "The Order Of The Day".

YOUR COLUMN

Supreme Court stamp on integration of Kashmir

Dear Editor;

December 11, 2023 is a red letter day in the life of India (Bharat) (Bharat must be invariably stated in order to avoid confusion between the nation India and I.N.D.I.A. bloc). The Supreme Court judgment has delighted majority of people and disappointed a few including Gupkar comprising of 7 parties constituted for the purpose of restoration of Article 370. With the pleasant, unambiguous and historic judgment coming out from Supreme Court upholding the authority of the President of India to render the contentious Article invalid, Article 370 has been laid to rest. It was a day of rejoice when Article 370 was repealed on August 5, 2019. But it was not totally so, because there were doubts lingering in the mind of people what if the matter is taken to the Supreme Court. The doubts of people were confirmed when 23 petitioners moved the Supreme Court against the abolition of Article 370. After the case was listed for hearing, the Supreme Court expeditiously completed the hearings and delivered the judgment without keeping the

issue (case) deadlocked for years. Just a day before the judgment on the contentious Article was to be delivered, Farooq Abdullah "predicted" that the judgment on Article 370 would be in favour of BJP. PDP also echoed the same "prediction" that there would be adverse ruling on Article 370. The judgment is victory of people, not just BJP. The government is only a trustee which is supposed to act in the interest of the people and her nation. The government has come up to the expectation of majority of people by abrogating Article 370. What is favourable or what is adverse is determined from the nation's point of view. If the judgment has gone against the petitioners, it is may be adverse judgment to the petitioners and Gupkars. It is favourable judgment from the nation's point of view because the integration of Jammu and Kashmir to India has received the stamp of approval from the apex court. Threat from people opposed to the repeal of the Article has been warded off. The Supreme Court rightly says that special status to Jammu and Kashmir was against the spirit of Article 14 which advocates equality. It has delivered the judgment neither in haste nor with delay. It has taken into consideration a number of aspects and studied them thoroughly before delivering its judgment. The court has viewed that the Article 370 was meant for transitional purpose. The court has seen that Jammu and Kashmir had surrendered sovereignty while merging and found that the President's move to abrogate Article 370 was not mala fide. The court has

viewed that the Constituent Assembly was a temporary body and its recommendation was not binding. The government has been directed to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The government has been consistently maintaining that the statehood would be restored when the time is conducive. The conducive time is now coming. The court has directed the Election Commission to conduct the election by September 30, 2024. Since the 1950s, the RSS has reportedly passed a total of 27 Resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. It has viewed that Article 370 is a provision to break Kashmir from Bharat, stands for disintegration and corruption. Maharaja Hari Singh's son and first Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Karan Singh has welcomed the judgment and expressed the view that in the days subsequent to the abrogation of the Article, there are developments. Uddhav Thackeray has cheered the judgment and NC-PDP combination is visibly unhappy. The Supreme Court has held that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, a view echoed by all right thinking citizens of India. Last but not least, the Supreme Court has held that every action taken by the President cannot be contested. The bottom line is that the abrogation of Article 370 is legal and valid coming as it does from the constituent bench of the Supreme Court.

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