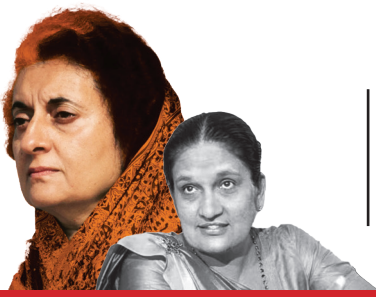


**DIGGING  
HISTORY FOR  
KATCHATHEEVU**



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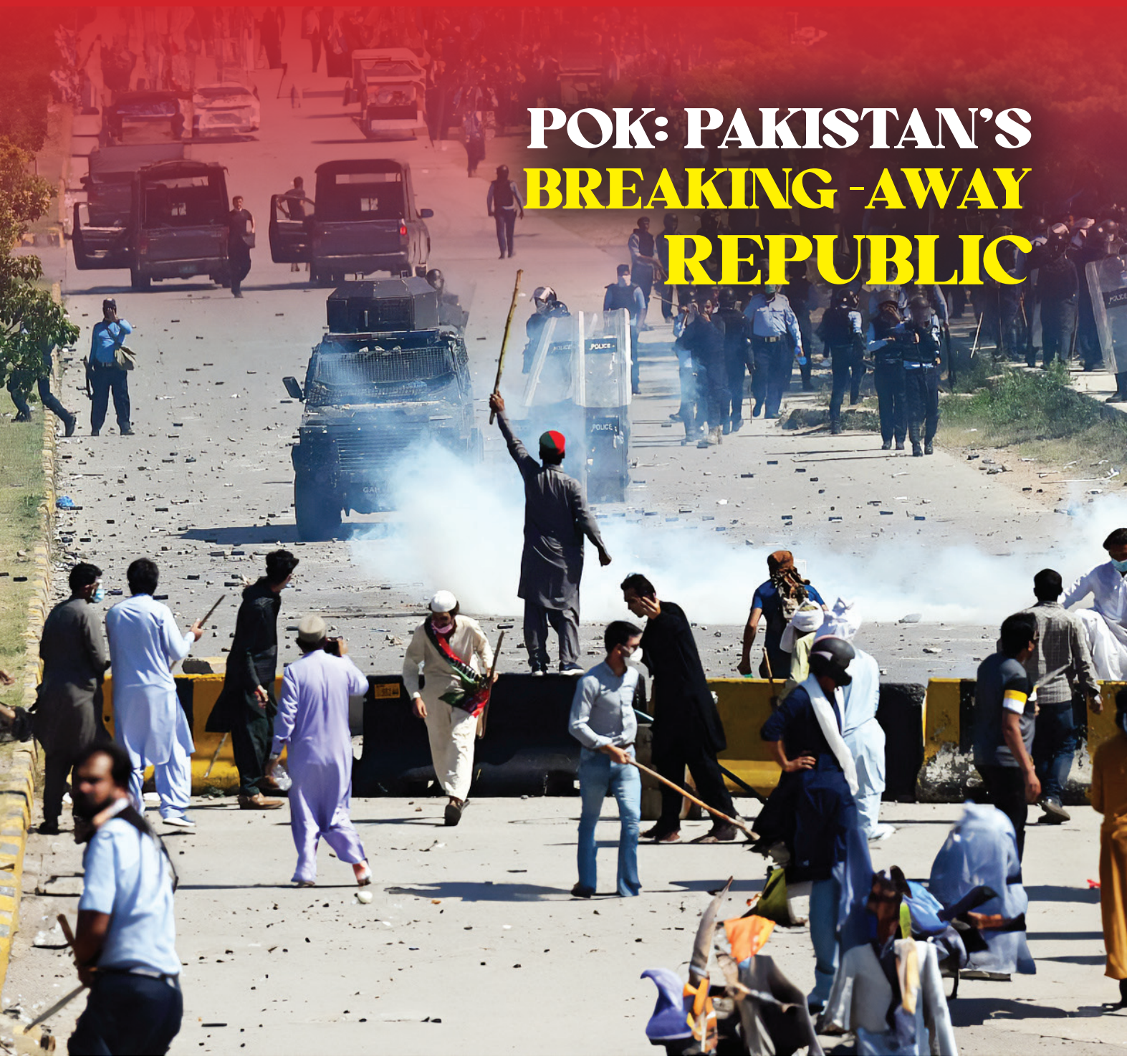
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## POK: PAKISTAN'S BREAKING - AWAY REPUBLIC



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aseema  
EDITORIAL

**P**akistan's worsening economic situation is pushing residents in POK to join India.

They are seeing prices of everything going up in their area. At the same time, Kashmiris on Indian side are telling them about the developments they are seeing in their area.

The major contributor to this transformation is however the availability of goods and services at affordable prices in Indian administered Kashmir.

Pakistanis are tired of inflation, which officially rose to in excess of 45% last month.

Petrol, electricity and wheat have become far more expensive. That is because Pakistan has to import most of them from foreign countries, but it has no US dollar on hand to do so.

In the international market, traders usually accept the US dollar.

Therefore the amount of US dollar you have in your foreign currency reserve matters a lot.

The story is similar in Maldives. Its economy is also teetering on a brink of collapse.

This edition carries an interesting article about how automation is silently killing many jobs across the country.

The advancements in the artificial intelligence technology are threatening to disrupt the job market like never before.

We have also published a research article on how India gave away kachatheevu Island to Sri Lanka.

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# INDEX



SIM CARD

**FRAUDSTERS'  
DEADLY WEAPON**



4



16

**POK: PAKISTAN'S  
BREAKING -AWAY  
REPUBLIC**

**MATUAS EXPOSE  
WEST BENGAL'S  
CITIZENSHIP  
RACKET**



22

**AIIMS MANGALAGIRI  
INDIA'S CHEAPEST  
HOSPITAL**



28

**DIGGING  
HISTORY FOR  
KATCHATHEEVU** 10



# INDEX

## INTERESTING STORY



Cities in China are **Sinking** into the Ground: **Study**



He Lived Underwater for 3 Months, and Grew 10 years Younger



**WHY PAKISTAN BANS TWITTER?**



Have You Heard **Frogs Screaming?**



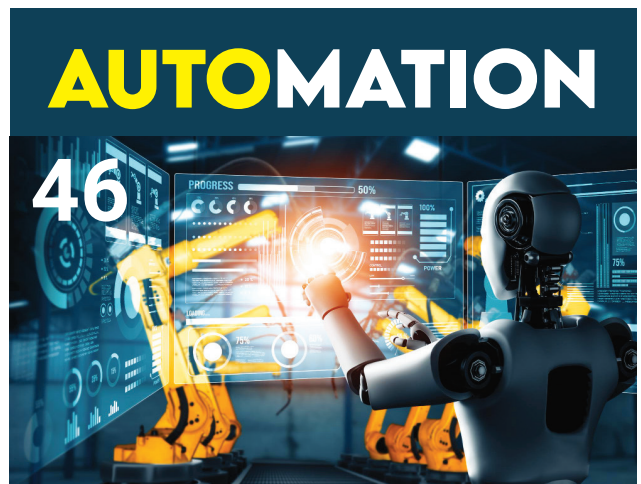
**DUPING THROUGH NETWORKING**

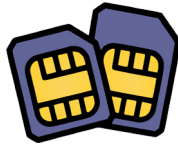


A British Sandwich UnCOVERS American Evading Police

**MALDIVES** FOLLOWS **PAKISTAN?**

40





## SIM CARD

# FRAUDSTERS' DEADLY WEAPON

**Government Removed Nearly 2 crore  
SIM cards used by Fraudsters**



**The SIM card in your phone holds the key to cybercrime. Fraudsters always use stolen cards, or cards not registered in their name, to call you. In some parts of the country, poor people sell their identity proofs to these fraudsters for a price. Every time police track down the criminals, their detainee turned out to be a victim. The real perpetrator of the crime remains behind the screens.**

By Shankar Shyanbhag

**H**ave you ever thought about the hidden dangers in your SIM card? It's surprising to know that many people don't realize their SIM cards could be used by others who got them with fake identity papers. Some folks might have even sold their SIM cards for quick cash without knowing the risks.

In poor areas like Jharkhand, cybercriminals are targeting vulnerable people, convincing them to give up their IDs for money.

With Aadhar cards and other IDs in hand, these criminals are on a mission to get as many SIM cards as possible. But it doesn't stop there; they convince their victims to open multiple bank accounts and hand over their debit cards.

When cybercriminals steal your money, they first move it to these accounts under the names of innocent people who sold their IDs for cash. Then they withdraw the money using the debit cards from those



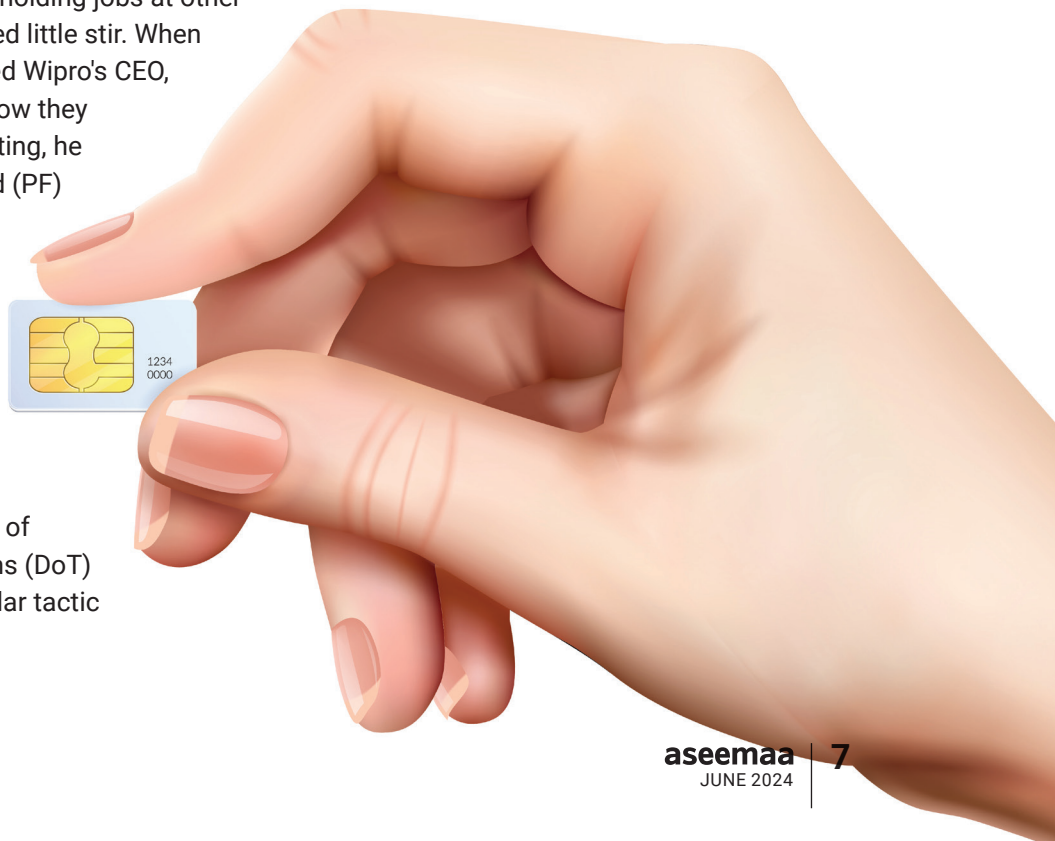
bank accounts.

This sneaky tactic has led to lots of thefts by cybercriminals, with unsuspecting SIM cards being used in their schemes. But there's some hope. The Department of Telecom (DOT) is using artificial intelligence to try to stop these bad activities for good.

When Bangalore-based IT company Wipro dismissed some employees for moonlighting, meaning they were holding jobs at other companies, it caused little stir. When reporters questioned Wipro's CEO, Rishad Premji, on how they identified moonlighting, he cited provident fund (PF) data, suggesting someone working for two companies would have contributions from both employers reflected in their PF account.

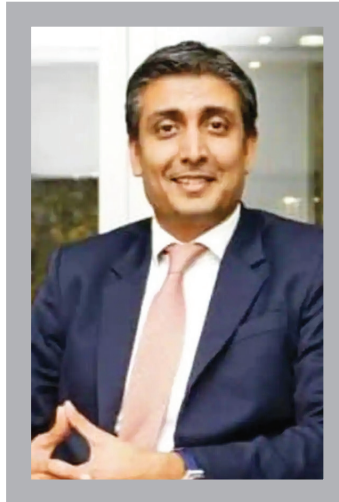
The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is employing a similar tactic

**Aadhar cards and other IDs in hand, these criminals are on a mission to get as many SIM cards as possible. But it doesn't stop there; they convince their victims to open multiple bank accounts and hand over their debit cards.**



## Beware of 'Phony' Phone Calls

Have you gotten a call lately claiming your phone number is about to be disconnected? Don't panic! The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is warning about a surge in FAKE calls designed to trick you. These scammers might pretend to be government officials or use foreign phone numbers, especially those starting with +92 on WhatsApp. Their goal? To scare you into giving them personal information. Some criminals claim to be customs officials and ask you if you have any consignments to be delivered. So, what should you do if you get one? Just hang up and report the incident. The DoT has a handy tool called "Chakshu" on the Sanchar Saathi portal specifically for reporting suspected phone scams. The DOT has been cracking down on these criminals by blacklisting companies that send malicious texts, deactivating suspicious message templates, and even blacklisting specific phone handsets used for fraud. It has shut down the accounts of nearly 9000 entities serving as dubious courier companies. More than thousand such whatsapp numbers have been deactivated so far, following the complaint on its portal.



Rishad Premji



Rajkumar Upadhyay

to identify potential cybercriminals attempting to steal money.

Over the past year, nearly 2 crore SIM cards have been deactivated, as stated in an official communication from the department. Furthermore, DOT has affirmed its utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) to identify individuals attempting to acquire an excessive number of SIM cards using identification documents, exceeding the prescribed limit of nine per citizen aged over 18.


While regulations stipulate a maximum allowance of nine SIM cards per individual of legal age, instances have surfaced where certain individuals possess an excessive quantity, numbering in the thousands.

### How is DOT's Strategy?

The union government once mandated nearly everyone to submit their Aadhaar documents to obtain SIM cards. However, the landmark 2018 judgment by the Supreme Court prevented the government from making Aadhaar mandatory for obtaining SIM cards.

Since then, individuals have been required to submit





**02  
CRORE**  
**SIM cards  
have been  
deactivated**

photographs along with other identity proofs to acquire SIM cards. Presently, the Department of Telecom (DOT) utilizes image technology to detect individuals who possess more than nine SIM cards.

Rajkumar Upadhyay, the chief executive officer of CDOT, recently informed Moneycontrol's website that the agency would employ this technology to cross-check all images within their database of 140 crore people. "It is a highly complex process, and nowhere else in the world has such a large database been processed simultaneously," he stated.

Due to the resemblance among some individuals, confirming their identities manually proves challenging. However, Upadhyay noted that the facial vector technology claimed by the department can identify individuals within 10 seconds by utilizing features like a person's lips, which remain consistent despite disguises.

Upadhyay further revealed that the DOT had identified telcos issuing up to 2,000 SIM cards based on a single identity proof, suspending such dubious connections only after notifying the concerned telecom carriers.

Subsequently, mobile phone users are required to verify their identities through the 'Know



**Over the past year, the Telecom Department has deactivated nearly 20 million SIM cards using intelligent AI technology. No one complained because these cards were likely in the hands of fraudsters.**

Your Customer' (KYC) process. Failure to complete KYC results in deactivation of their connections. In recent months, the department has deactivated lakhs of SIM cards daily.

Interestingly, despite deactivating crores of SIM cards, not a single complaint has been lodged, indicating that these cards were likely being utilized by cybercriminals. In the foreseeable future, these cybercriminals may face even bleaker prospects, as the government can employ technology to render their mobile devices obsolete by tracking their International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers.

This allows the government to identify the real users of SIM cards by tracing the IMEI numbers of the associated mobile devices.





# DIGGING HISTORY FOR KATCHATHEEVU

**All historical documents show the island as part of India**

📌 By Aria Menon

**T**he recent election campaigning in Tamil Nadu has reignited the longstanding issue of ceding the island to Sri Lanka, bringing it back into focus despite previous efforts to resolve it. Reports indicate that fishermen from Tamil Nadu face significant challenges in freely accessing the waters between India and Sri Lanka, with their boats frequently being seized and auctioned off by Sri Lankan authorities. Additionally, many fishermen

# Chennai சென்னை

The transfer of Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka has ignited political tensions in Tamil Nadu. Our reporter, Aria Menon, delved into historical records to uncover the true ownership of the island.

All historical records prove that Katchatheevu was always a part of India. Queen Victoria's 1858 Proclamation, marking the transfer of power from the East India Company to British Rule, references Katchatheevu Island as belonging to Ramanathapuram Zamin. It's notable that there is no mention of Katchatheevu in the historical records and ancient books of Sri Lanka.

Indira Gandhi

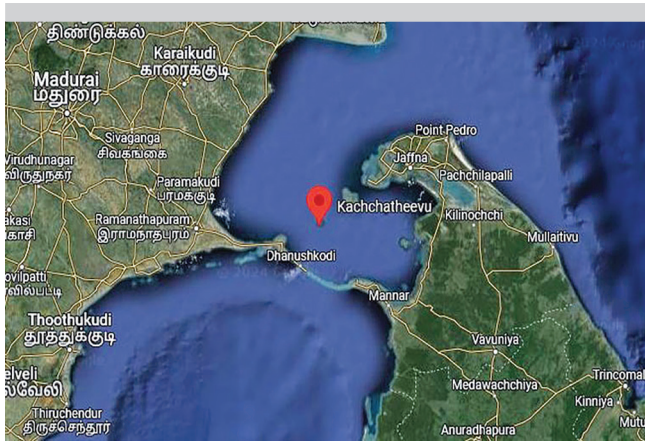
find themselves at the mercy of the Sri Lankan Navy or incarcerated in Jaffna for inadvertently trespassing into Sri Lankan waters.

Historically, Katchatheevu was one of eight islands under the control of the Ramanathapuram Sethupathi kings before India's independence. The formation of Rameshwaram and 11 other islands in the Bay of Bengal, including Katchatheevu, can be traced back to a violent volcanic eruption and cyclone in 1480. From 1802 until the abolition of the Zamindari system in 1947, Katchatheevu was governed by the Ramanad rulers.

The lineage of the Ramanathapuram

**Katchatheevu Srilankan President Sirimavo-Bandaranaike**

**Notably, historical maps of Sri Lanka from the Dutch, Portuguese, and other sources do not mention Katchatheevu island, which is a significant observation. On the other side, all Indian Land Survey Records issued between 1874 and 1956 exclusively depict Katchatheevu Island as part of Indian territory.**



Sethupathy King rose to prominence in 1605 during the rule of the Madurai Nayaks. It encompassed 69 coastal villages and 7 islands, with Katchatheevu Island being one of them.

A copper plate plaque, issued during the reign of King Koothan Sethupathy of Ramanathapuram between 1622 and 1635, indicates that the sea up to Talaimannar was under the authority of the Sethupathy Kings.

In 1822, an agreement was signed between the British East India Company and the Ramanad king, allowing the Company to utilize

## **BLUNDERS OF INDIRA GANDHI**

In 1973, Indira Gandhi visited Sri Lanka, and the following year, in 1974, Sri Lankan President Sirimavo Bandaranaike visited India. During their meetings, an agreement was reached between the two leaders, resulting in the cession of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka. This decision, made by Indira Gandhi on December 28, 1974, was executed without consultation with Tamil Nadu. In her statement regarding the transfer of Katchatheevu Island, Indira Gandhi emphasized that the decision was not solely based on historical records but also influenced by political considerations.

sixty-nine villages and seven islands (including Katchatheevu) for trading purposes.

Queen Victoria's 1858 Proclamation, marking the transfer of power from the East India Company to British Rule, references Katchatheevu Island as belonging to Ramanathapuram Zamin. It's notable

**All Indian Land Survey Records issued between 1874 and 1956 exclusively depict Katchatheevu Island as part of Indian territory.**



Queen Victoria's 1858 Proclamation refers Katchatheevu Island as belonging to Ramanathapuram Zamin

## **DETENTION OF INDIAN FISHERMEN**

During the Sri Lankan Civil War spanning from 1983 to 2009, the border dispute took a back seat as the nation was engulfed in a violent internal conflict. Sri Lankan naval forces were primarily occupied with blocking LTTE supply lines from Jaffna, leading to increased incursions by Indian fishermen into Sri Lankan waters. The presence of larger Indian trawlers, notorious for overfishing and causing damage to local fishing equipment and vessels, exacerbated tensions. In response, Colombo bolstered its maritime defenses and intensified efforts to apprehend Indian fishermen. As marine resources dwindled on the Indian side, fishermen continued to venture into Sri Lankan waters, a practice that had persisted for years. However, they began to face more severe consequences for their actions. To this day, the Sri Lankan navy frequently arrests Indian fishermen, with numerous allegations of custodial abuse and fatalities. Each such incident reignites the demand for the return of Katchatheevu.

that there is no mention of Katcha Theevu in the historical records and ancient books of Sri Lanka.

A Registered Document (Registration No. 510/1880, Book 1, Volume 16) dated June 23, 1880, indicates that eight coastal villages and four islands, including Katchatheevu Island, were leased by the District Collector of Madurai to Abdul Kadar Marakayar and Muthusamy Pillai, jointly on behalf of the Ramanathapuram Sethupathy's.

P. P Peris, who served as an Assistant Draftsman during British Rule from 1936 to 1940 and later became a Ministerial Secretary after Sri Lanka gained

independence, stated on May 8th, 1966, that Katchatheevu Island belonged to the Ramanathapuram Kings. Peris stated that during his tenure as Assistant Draftsman, he was tasked with surveying the district boundaries of Ceylon and upon reviewing all relevant records, documents, historical evidence, and Queen Victoria's proclamation, he concluded that Katchatheevu Island belonged to King Sethupathy. This statement, issued by the Ministerial Secretary on May 8th, 1966, was widely reported in the Daily Mirror in Sri Lanka and subsequently covered by the Indian Express in India.





M K Stalin

## ANNAMALAI'S RTI PROOF TO CM STALIN

K Annamalai, a strong leader of the BJP from Tamil Nadu, recently said that they might try to get Katchatheevu back. CM M K Stalin claimed that his party in 1974 didn't know about the Katchatheevu Island agreement, but Annamalai showed an RTI document proving that the DMK, led by M Karunanidhi, was informed. Annamalai criticized the DMK for pretending not to know, saying Stalin is just acting. He said that 50 years ago, the DMK did know about it but didn't handle it well. He hopes that the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will do the right thing about this. India has been affected by giving away Katchatheevu for fifty years, especially the fishermen from Tamil Nadu. Let's see what happens after the 2024 elections.

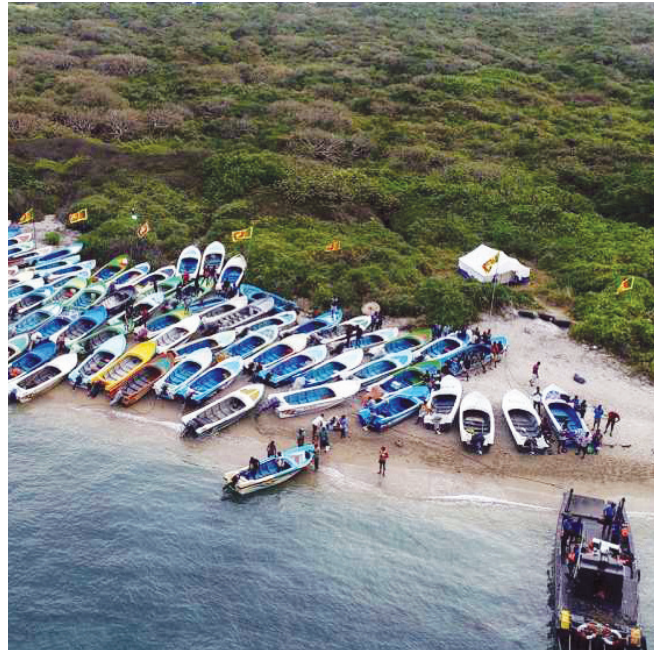


Annamalai

### Indian fishermen Fishing near Katchatheevu Island



### Katchatheevu Island



Notably, historical maps of Sri Lanka from the Dutch, Portuguese, and other sources do not mention Katchatheevu Island, which is a significant observation.

At the dawn of the Zamindari Abolition Act, Katchatheevu Island was recorded as 285 acres of Government Poramboke land in Ramanathapuram Village.

All Indian Land Survey Records issued between 1874 and 1956 exclusively depict Katchatheevu Island as part of Indian territory.

Unexpectedly, in 1920, the Sri Lankan government began asserting its claim over Katchatheevu. Subsequently, in 1956, the Indian government expanded its sea territory from 3 nautical miles to 6 nautical miles and extended fishery boundaries to 100 nautical miles. Sri Lanka responded with a similar measure, apprehensive that Katchatheevu might come under Indian control.

### Importance of Katchatheevu

Due to its strategic geopolitical location

within the Palk Strait, a critical maritime passage linking the Bay of Bengal with the Indian Ocean, Katchatheevu serves as a significant marine zone conducive to effective monitoring of maritime traffic.

Given the abundant fishery resources in the waters surrounding the island, essential for the livelihoods of fishermen in Tamil Nadu, it is evident that control over the island equates to control over these resources, a concern recently highlighted by the BJP Tamil Nadu President K Annamalai.

Furthermore, India is concerned about the potential for utilizing the island for surveillance and security purposes to safeguard its territorial waters effectively. While some argue that India gained access to a larger maritime zone in the Bay of Bengal following the agreement to cede Katchatheevu Island, this does not negate the numerous challenges faced by the country and fishermen, particularly those from Tamil Nadu.



# POK: PAKISTAN'S BREAKING -AWAY REPUBLIC

People in POK are  
Raising India Flags

By Parikshit Dume

In Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK), the scarcity of essentials has reached critical levels, with even a single grain of rice becoming a luxury amidst skyrocketing prices. As Pakistan grapples with economic collapse, the government has resorted to imposing heavy taxes to sustain its operations, further burdening its populace.

Against this backdrop, protests have surged, with demonstrators raising the Indian flag as a symbol of



**With the economic crisis worsening, people in Pak-occupied Kashmir (POK) are revolting against Islamabad. Today, the tricolor is flying in some parts of the valley. They are comparing the prices of groceries and electricity with people across the Indian border, and are increasingly feeling alienated. Lack jobs are also fueling their anger.**

”



**"WE WILL GET POK BACK."**

**AMIT SHAH**



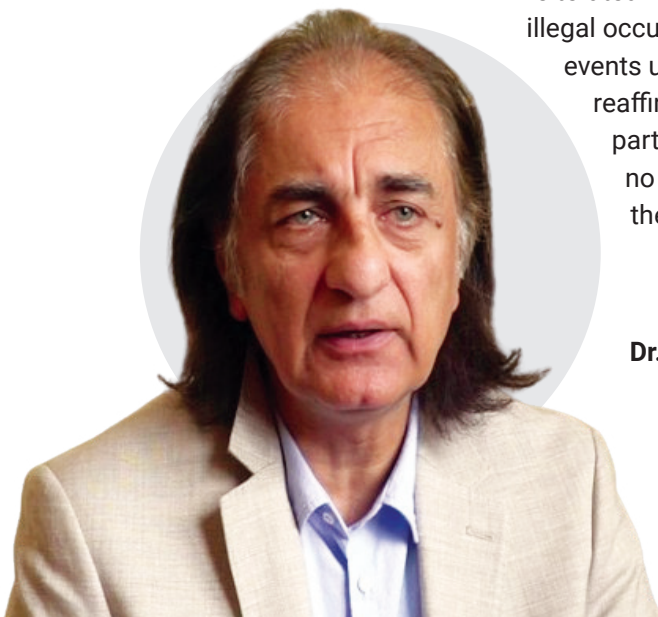
**Protest in Muzaffarabad, PoJK**

defiance. The capital city of Muzaffarabad in Occupied Kashmir has become a focal point for ongoing protests, which have spread across various districts, drawing thousands onto the streets to decry the escalating costs of electricity and flour.

The situation has become increasingly untenable, as the relentless price hikes exacerbate the already dire circumstances. The question of India's stance in this struggle has emerged as a prominent topic of debate. Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, speaking at an election campaign event in Prayagraj, unequivocally stated India's commitment to reclaiming PoK, affirming, "We will get it back."

Concurrently, Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar has reiterated India's stance, asserting the eventual end to the illegal occupation of PoK. Against the backdrop of recent events unfolding in PoK, the Modi government has reaffirmed its unequivocal position: PoK is an integral part of India, both historically and in the present, with no ambiguity regarding India's steadfast stance on the matter.

**Dr. Amjad Ayub Mirza**



## Know about POK?

The POK, referred to as Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan, embodies a complex web of political arrangements and territorial disputes. In 1963, Pakistan relinquished a portion of AJK to China, establishing the Trans-Karakoram Tract. Despite its distinct constitution and governing bodies, including a Prime Minister and President, AJK's authority is eclipsed by Pakistan's overarching influence. The administration of Gilgit-Baltistan, initially delegated to Pakistan in 1949 by AJK, remains enigmatic in its constitutional standing within Pakistan. While Pakistan advocates for granting Gilgit-Baltistan the status of a fifth province, this proposal has been met with resistance, amid concerns that it may undermine efforts to resolve the broader Kashmir issue. Amidst this intricate geopolitical backdrop, a groundswell of discontent has emerged, symbolized by a burgeoning movement for genuine autonomy and aspirations to align with India. Pakistan's precarious financial situation, compounded by the prospect of losing control over PoK, intensifies its apprehensions. The evolving dynamics in this region pose significant challenges for Pakistan, heightening anxieties about the feasibility of retaining its grip amidst mounting pressures.



People protest in muzzaffarabad by hoisting the Indian flag.

### Rising wave of Protests

Residents of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) launched protests on May 10th, 2024, decrying economic hardship. The Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) spearheaded a region-wide shutdown in Muzaffarabad, with shuttered businesses and paralyzed transportation networks.

Soaring inflation, rising taxes, and a lack of essential commodity subsidies fueled the demonstrations. Local traders, under the Mangala Dam Traders Group, demanded uninterrupted power supply, wheat flour price reductions, and an end to preferential treatment for elites.

PoK, governed semi-autonomously with its own Prime Minister, has seen grievances go unanswered for over a year. Imtiaz Aslam, a

# How Nehru's Policy Made Kashmir "A Disputed Land"

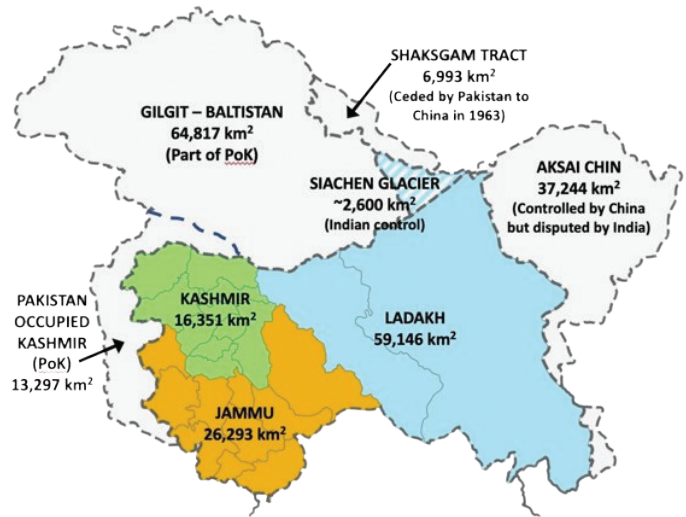
The intricate geopolitical landscape of Kashmir, characterized by its disputed status, traces back to policy decisions made during the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. As Pakistan and Bangladesh emerged following the partition of undivided India, the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, under the rule of Maharaja Hari Singh, stood at a critical juncture. It faced the crucial question of alignment with either India or Pakistan or maintaining its independence.

Amidst escalating tensions, aggravated by outbreaks of violence between the two emerging nations, Maharaja Hari Singh opted for temporary independence.

However, this fragile equilibrium was shattered when Pakistan-backed Pashtun tribesmen launched a large-scale invasion of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in October 1947, seizing significant swathes of territory. Faced with this existential threat,

Maharaja Hari Singh sought military assistance from India. In response, India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, facilitated the signing of the Accession Act, leading to the integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian Union in exchange for military support. This pivotal decision ignited the first direct military conflict between India and Pakistan. Despite the ongoing hostilities, India sought international intervention, approaching the United Nations on January 1, 1948.

The United Nations promptly ordered a ceasefire, delineating the boundaries that would later become known as Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), thereby leaving a contested region at the heart of the enduring Kashmir conflict.



## POK Demands Cheap Electricity

Soaring electricity prices are the main driver of protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK). Residents believe they deserve cheaper power because much of Pakistan's electricity comes from POK's Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project. Local leaders, like Prime Minister Chaudhary, argue POK is unfairly deprived of its rightful share of generated electricity. Adding fuel to the fire, the recent budget failed to address other key concerns. PoK officials lament the lack of increased salaries for government employees and allege the diversion of development funds. These issues amplify feelings of marginalization and neglect.

JAAC leader, lamented this lack of government response, citing the previous year's wheat crisis and rising electricity tariffs as key issues.

Aslam accused authorities of using intimidation tactics against activists. This highlights a broader trend of civil society mobilization in PoK, but also the challenges faced by those expressing discontent.

There are numerous factors contributing to the conflict in PoK. Pakistani authorities conducted



People Protest, PoJK

a raid in Muzaffarabad, resulting in the arrest of approximately 70 JAAC activists. This incident sparked widespread protests among the populace.

Responding to the arrests, JAAC members and supporters organized a long march towards Muzaffarabad. However, law enforcement intervened, resorting to the use of tear gas shells to thwart the procession. In retaliation, protesters engaged in stone pelting, causing disruption to local residents and places of worship. The police attempted to disperse the crowd by resorting to baton charges, an action that quickly gained traction on social media platforms.

Videos depicting the Pakistani police's aggressive handling of the protesters circulated rapidly, prompting significant public outcry. PoK activist Amjad Ayub Mirza, speaking to news agency ANI, alleged that Pakistani forces fired upon unarmed civilians, resulting in the deaths of at least two individuals during the confrontation.

Mirpur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kamran Ali informed a Pakistani newspaper that sub-inspector Adnan Qureshi succumbed to a gunshot wound to

## POK Activists Openly Calling for India's Intervention

Amidst the tumult, PoK activist Amjad Ayub Mirza has made a fervent appeal for intervention from the Indian government. In an interview with news agency ANI, Mirza emphasized India's indispensable role in addressing the crisis gripping Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He underscored the peaceful protests sweeping across the entirety of PoK, lamenting the heavy-handed response of Pakistan and Punjab Police forces. Mirza further underscored the urgency of the situation, imploring India to take decisive action and seize the opportunity to support the liberation of PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan. He cautioned against complacency, urging India to break from past precedents and prioritize the plight of the occupied regions. "The situation is deteriorating by the day. India must act decisively. It's imperative for India to seize this moment and champion the cause of freedom for PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan. Failure to do so may squander this golden opportunity for liberation," remarked Mirza, highlighting the critical juncture at hand.

Division	District	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (2017 Census)	Headquarters
● Mirpur	Mirpur	1,010	456,200	New Mirpur City
	Kotli	1,862	774,194	Kotli
	Bhimber	1,516	420,624	Bhimber
● Muzaffarabad	Muzaffarabad	1,642	650,370	Muzaffarabad
	Hattian	854	230,529	Hattian Bala
	Neelum Valley	3,621	191,251	Athmuqam
● Poonch	Poonch	855	500,571	Rawalakot
	Haveli	600	152,124	Bagh
	Bagh	768	371,919	Forward Kahuta
	Sudhanoti	569	297,584	Palandri
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 districts</b>	<b>13,297</b>	<b>4,045,366</b>	<b>Muzaffarabad</b>

the chest while attempting to maintain order in Islangar town.

### Pakistan's Economy

Pakistan finds itself mired in a profound economic crisis, exacerbated by a confluence of factors including soaring global food and fuel prices precipitated by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. This grim reality mirrors the plight faced by neighboring Sri Lanka in 2022-23, underscoring the pervasive nature of the challenge.

The precipitous decline in Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, as reported by the State Bank of Pakistan, paints a stark picture of the nation's financial predicament. From August 2021 to February 2023, foreign currency reserves plummeted from 20.1 billion to a mere 2.9 billion USD, a staggering decrease that leaves the country teetering on the brink. With reserves now only sufficient to cover a single month's worth of imports, Pakistan's vulnerability to

external shocks looms large.

A particularly acute vulnerability lies in Pakistan's heavy reliance on imported energy, with reports indicating that approximately 40% of its primary energy supply is sourced from abroad.



**From August 2021 to February 2023, foreign currency reserves plummeted from 20.1 billion to a mere 2.9 billion USD**

In the face of this dire situation, many Kashmiris are increasingly turning their gaze towards India as a beacon of economic stability and resilience. Therefore, they are raising Indian flag.

Following the Pulwama attack in February 2019, India cut trade relations by imposing a 200% duty on Pakistani exports, including those from PoK. This punitive action, targeting products like dry dates and cement, severely impacted PoK traders, pushing many businesses to the brink of collapse. India's move crippled trade, with Pakistani exports to India plummeting from a monthly average of \$45 million in 2018 to a meager \$2.5 million between March and July 2019.



# MATUAS EXPOSE WEST BENGAL'S CITIZENSHIP RACKET

Bangladeshi refugees in West Bengal already have Aadhar cards.

By Kunal Chatterjee

**H**indu refugees in West Bengal number in the millions, yet none have applied for citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Among these refugees, the Matuas, a predominantly Dalit community, are particularly notable.

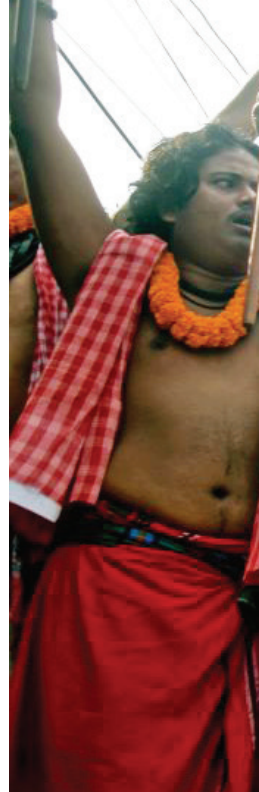
The Matuas wield significant influence in at least 50 assembly constituencies and play a decisive role in the outcomes of two Lok Sabha constituencies in the state.

Despite their longstanding demand for citizenship, which dates back to 2004, none of the Matuas have managed to apply for citizenship even after the implementation of the amended CAA.

Interestingly, they possess various forms of identification, including ration cards, voter IDs, Aadhar cards, and PAN cards.

However, the prospect of applying for citizenship poses a dilemma for them. Doing so could potentially

**In West Bengal, there are crores of Matuas, a Hindu community, believed to have migrated from neighboring Bangladesh. Many of them desire to obtain citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). However, they already possess documents such as Aadhar, ration, and PAN cards that establish their Indian citizenship. Chief Minister Mamata Banarjee openly questions why they should need to apply for citizenship at all.**





Matuas a predominantly Dalit community in WB have not applied for citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)

expose them as illegal citizens or individuals who falsified documents to obtain Aadhar cards.

Additionally, the citizenship application process requires submitting an affidavit stating one's country of origin and date of entry into India. Furthermore, applicants must obtain a certificate from their community institution verifying their membership within the community.

One of the major challenges they face is providing documentation to substantiate their previous residence in Bangladesh before migrating to India. This requirement adds another layer of complexity to their quest for citizenship.

While many Matuas express support for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), they urge the government to streamline the application process. They point out the challenge of providing documentation to prove their previous residence, particularly due to the circumstances surrounding their departure from Bangladesh. Many fled amid escalating violence instigated by Muslims, leaving behind their possessions.

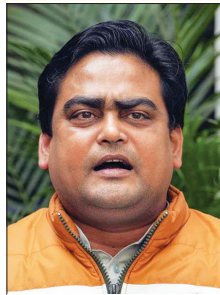
**Under the administrations of both Mamata Banarjee and the previous Left party, acquiring certificates has never been a challenge due to widespread corruption. Consequently, the state now grapples with a significant number of residents whose citizenship status is in doubt. Considering this situation, implementing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) before the CAA may be more appropriate for West Bengal.**

# WHERE DID MATUAS COME FROM?

The Matuas trace their origins to Orakandi, Bangladesh, where Harichand Tagore and Guruchand Tagore founded the community in Gopalganj. Following India's independence, they migrated with numerous followers to establish their religious hub in Thakurnagar, North 24 Parganas. Since independence, many Matua leaders have actively engaged in politics. Former Sangadhipati Pramath Ranjan Tagore served as a Member of Parliament for the Congress party. His family members, including his son, daughter-in-law, and grandsons, continue their political involvement. Local accounts indicate that some refugees aligning with the Left Front and the Congress are influenced by the ideology of Yogendranath Mondal, Pakistan's first Hindu minister and a Dalit advocate. This faction of the Matuas upholds Mandal's principles, having faced expulsion from Pakistan.

Rajesh, a 68-year-old from West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, emotionally recounts his childhood in Bangladesh's Faridpur district, where his family's home was set ablaze before their eyes. Forced to flee with only the clothes on their backs, their ordeal highlights the urgency and complexity of their situation.

Another member of the Matua community acknowledges the importance



Shantanu Thakur,  
A Matua leader

of the CAA but emphasizes the practical difficulties in obtaining documents from another country to support their residency claims.

The Matua Sangathan, a national organization representing the community, estimates there are over 3 crore Matuas across the country, although specific figures for West Bengal are not readily available. According to community leaders, nearly two million individuals in

West Bengal are still without citizenship.

Recently, members of the community convened to receive identity cards provided by Shantanu Thakur's organization, the All India Matua Mahasangha. Thakur, a prominent BJP leader and influential figure in the state, advises Matuas to await the formation of the next government in New Delhi, hopeful that it will address concerns regarding the citizenship application process.

## Politics and Matuas

Once staunch supporters of the Left Front, the Matua community began backing the Trinamool Congress from 2011 onwards. Prior to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Mahasangha split: one faction aligned with the Trinamool Congress, while the other, led by Shantanu Thakur, secured victories under the BJP banner, resulting in Thakur's appointment as a Member of Parliament and Union Minister.

The Trinamool Congress, led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, contends that Matuas, possessing voter cards and actively participating in elections, should not be required to provide additional citizenship documentation. However, a 2016 decision by the West Bengal cabinet stipulated that citizenship



# THIS BANGLADESH ISLAMIC TEACHER STAYED ILLEGALLY FOR 10 YEARS

Obtaining certificates for ID proofs such as Aadhar and ration cards has historically been perceived as easy in West Bengal. Consequently, the state is now faced with a significant number of residents whose citizenship status is questionable. In 2021, Kolkata police apprehended Faizullah, a Bangladeshi resident, in Dattapukur, North 24 Parganas, following communal riots.



Faizullah

Surprisingly, it was discovered that he also held Indian citizenship. Faizullah initially entered India using the same route utilized by millions of Bangladeshis over the past 50 years. He married the daughter of a local resident named Nur Mohammad and subsequently obtained Aadhar and ration cards by providing evidence of his enrollment in a local school. Crucially, the documents falsely represented him as the son of Nur Mohammad, when in reality, he was his son-

in-law. By the time of his arrest, Faizullah had been residing in West Bengal for over a decade, as reported by Anand Bajar Patrika. Following a court order, authorities recovered two birth certificates with different dates, two Bangladeshi passports, an identity card with expired visas, two Indian school certificates, and Aadhar and PAN cards from his possession. Interestingly, Faizullah

worked as a teacher at an Islamic religious school (madrasa) and had taught in various regions including West Bengal, Assam, and Mumbai, while also propagating Islam across different madrasas in the country. Faizullah's story echoes that of many undocumented residents in West Bengal. Widespread corruption under the administrations of Mamata Banerjee and previous Left parties facilitated the rapid acquisition of Indian citizenship by infiltrators.

applicants must hold both a voter card and ration card and have resided in West Bengal for a minimum of five years.

Although the government discusses amending the application rules, practical challenges persist. In West Bengal, authorities do not recognize voter or ration cards as sufficient proof of citizenship for employment purposes or during passport verification.

Previously, the Left Front garnered overwhelming support from the Matua



Matua Pramath Ranjan Tagore was a Member of Parliament for the Congress party

longstanding aspirations.

community, facilitated by Matua leaders and ministers within partner parties like the Forward Bloc. However, the Trinamool Congress gradually replaced the Left Front's influence, with figures like Minister Jyotipriya Mallik maintaining regular contact with Matua representatives. The community's shift towards the Trinamool Congress stemmed from assurances by Mamata Banerjee regarding citizenship documentation, reflecting their





# Cities in China are **Sinking** into the Ground: Study

50 Chinese scientists utilizing radar observations, this issue cannot be ignored, as it directly impacts infrastructure, urban planning, and civilian safety.

INTERESTING STORY

In a concerning discovery, scientists have observed that numerous cities in China are sinking, with nearly half of the major urban centers experiencing this phenomenon. The cause behind this sinking is attributed to land subsidence, a process where the Earth's surface gradually settles or abruptly sinks due to the movement of subsurface earth materials, exacerbated by excessive groundwater extraction and rapid urbanization.

According to a study conducted by 50 Chinese scientists utilizing radar observations, this issue cannot be ignored, as it directly impacts infrastructure, urban planning, and civilian safety. The research, spanning over 82 cities with a combined population of 700 million, revealed that 45% of these cities are experiencing land subsidence at a rate exceeding 0.1 inches (3 millimeters) per year, with some areas witnessing declines of over 0.4 inches (10 millimeters) annually.

Groundwater extraction, primarily for drinking purposes, is identified as a leading cause of this phenomenon. The reduction in groundwater levels leads to soil compaction and settling, resulting in a lowering of the ground level. Additionally, the weight

of buildings and infrastructure contributes to sinking, particularly in areas with less robust geological foundations.

Cities like Beijing and Tianjin, characterized by rapid urbanization and industrial growth, are among the most affected. The continuous expansion of tall buildings and roads exerts additional pressure on the land, further exacerbating the sinking problem. Moreover, the potential for climate change impacts

is heightened by this phenomenon.

This groundbreaking study underscores the urgent need for action. Urban planners and policymakers must consider the risks of land subsidence when designing and constructing new infrastructure. Building codes may need revision to address the increased risk of sinking, and measures to mitigate groundwater extraction should be implemented promptly.



## He Lived Underwater for 3 Months, and Grew 10 years Younger

INTERESTING STORY

**R**etired navy officer Dr. Joseph Dituri was asked to live underwater in the Atlantic Ocean for 93 days for an important study. The goal was to see how living under pressure deep underwater affects the human body. When he came out after three months, he looked much younger, like he had aged backward 10 years!

Dituri stayed in a small pod underwater for three months. When he emerged, scientists were amazed to see him looking so much younger.

Doctors checked Dituri's health and found some remarkable changes. His telomeres, which are like caps on our DNA that shrink as we get older, had actually grown 20% longer in just three months. His stem cell count had also increased, and he was overall much healthier.

His sleep got better, and his cholesterol dropped a lot. These changes happened because of the pressure underwater, which



has many benefits for the body, doctors say.

Dituri talked about why experiences like his are important. He said in an interview with the Daily Mirror, a British newspaper: "We need places like this where people can go and relax, get their feet treated, and experience the benefits of being deep underwater."

Dituri also mentioned that his metabolism got much better. He exercised for an hour five days a week underwater using only exercise bands. He set a new record by staying underwater for 93 days, beating the old record of 73 days.



# AIIMS MANGALAGIRI

## INDIA'S CHEAPEST HOSPITAL

📍 **By Vinay Samson**

In Andhra Pradesh lies a beacon of hope for those seeking affordable medical care: AIIMS Mangalagiri. This public hospital, established by the Union Government as a promise during the Telangana bifurcation, offers a stark contrast to the often-prohibitive costs of private healthcare.

AIIMS Mangalagiri began its journey in 2018 as a temporary facility at Vijayawada's Siddhartha Medical College. In 2019, it moved to its permanent location and officially opened its doors for outpatient services, charging a meager Rs. 10 for doctor consultations and Rs. 25 for admission.

The hospital's affordability has attracted patients from far and wide. Since its inception in 2019, it has served a staggering 10 lakh patients in its first five years. The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 saw the hospital rise to the challenge.

Outpatient services were expanded, and inpatient services with 50 beds were initiated. Today, the hospital offers inpatient care for various chronic conditions, with admission fees of Rs. 25 and a daily bed charge of Rs. 30.

AIIMS Mangalagiri goes beyond just basic services. There are no hidden costs like nursing fees, and tests and medicines are offered at minimal charges through

**At a time when healthcare costs have become a major concern nationwide, a hospital in Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a beacon of hope. Here, you can consult a doctor for just 10 rupees, and beds are available for 30 rupees. Kidney operations are carried out for just 50,000 rupees.**



## hospital has a capacity of 960 beds, with 500 beds already operational. Additionally, they plan to commence key services such as cardiology soon

Amrit Pharmacy.

Looking ahead, the hospital is exploring integration with government insurance schemes like Ayushman Bharat (Central Government) and Arogya Shri (Andhra Pradesh Government) to further ease the financial burden on patients seeking quality medical care. This commitment to affordability, coupled with its growing capacity, positions AIIMS Mangalagiri as a vital resource for Andhra Pradesh's healthcare landscape.

### Delighted Patients

Patients claim to receive medical services at a low cost. Ganesh from Hyderabad mentioned that the operation had been conducted at a lower price compared to private hospitals.

He explained that he worked as a farmer and fell seriously ill two years ago. He recounted being told that seeking

treatment and undergoing an operation at a private hospital would cost around Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

Due to financial constraints, they attempted to utilize Arogya Sri, but were informed that it did not cover his kidney problem. Consequently, he learned about AIIMS Mangalagiri. Ganesh said that the operation cost him Rs. 60,000, excluding medication expenses.

Due to the presence of medical college buildings, hospitals, hostels, and nursing colleges, Mangalagiri AIIMS has become an ideal training center for medical students and is capable of providing various services to patients. Efforts to expand these services are currently underway.

Since 98 percent of the construction work has been completed, the hospital is moving ahead to provide improved



## IIMS Mangalagiri goes beyond just basic services. There are no hidden costs like nursing fees, and tests and medicines are offered at minimal charges through Amrit Pharmacy

services, according to Dr. Madhavananda Kar, the Director of AIIMS Mangalagiri.

Today the hospital has a capacity of 960 beds, with 500 beds already operational. Additionally, they plan to commence key services such as cardiology soon.

While preparations are underway for an additional 17 operation theaters, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended congratulations to the Mangalagiri AIIMS team for their service to 10 lakh people within a short period. He formally dedicated the institution to the nation last month.

Mangalagiri AIIMS currently employs up to 180 doctors serving as professors, additional, associate, and assistant professors. Additionally, there are approximately 400 other staff members.

The sudden invasion of patients for its low-cost treatment has left the hospital stretching to its limit. Some patients have voiced concerns regarding the shortage of medical officers available to conduct outpatient (OP) services, leading to significant waiting times.

Vjayarajan, a patient, explained that he had come to the hospital for an OP appointment due to leg pain. He mentioned that he arrived at the hospital at ten in the morning. He stated that it took an hour and a half to complete the registration for the OP.

He recounted going to the Orthopedic



**Dr. Madhavananda Kar**  
Director of AIIMS Mangalagiri

OP at half past eleven, only to find another queue. After waiting until 2 in the afternoon, he was informed that the doctor had gone for lunch. The doctor eventually returned at 2:30 to attend to him.

Vjayarajan expressed his frustration, noting that it was past 3:30 p.m. by the time he was seen. He emphasized the congestion in departments like orthopedics, suggesting the need for more doctors.

As an employee in a private company, Vjayarajan mentioned that he had to undergo radiology tests as per the doctor's instructions. However, he was disappointed when he was informed that he would need to come another day for the tests.





# WHY PAKISTAN BANS TWITTER?

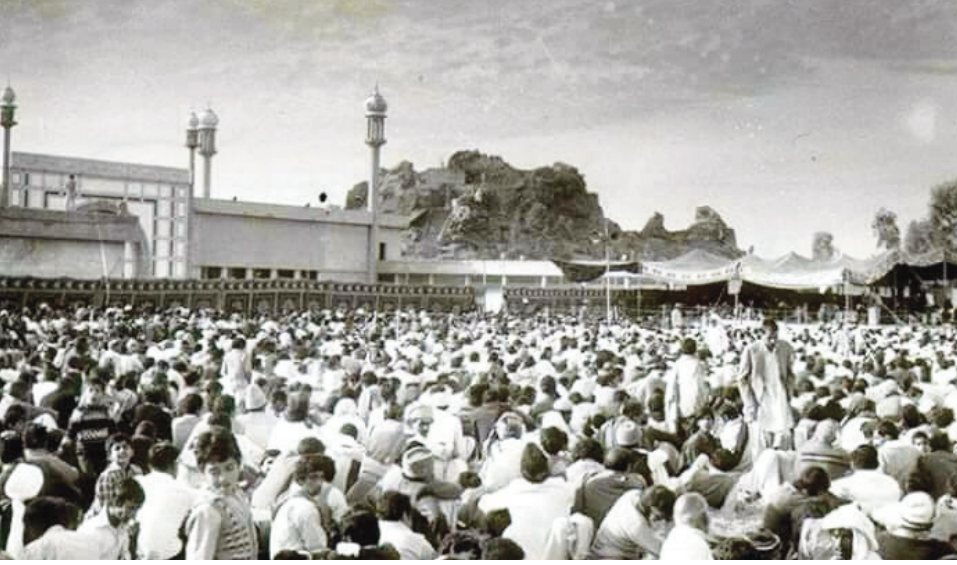
**SOCIAL MEDIA THREATENS TO HURT  
PAKISTAN'S ISLAMIC VALUES**

By Balaji Subramanian

**P**akistan grapples with a tug-of-war between democracy, free speech, and its conservative Islamic values, particularly in the digital age. The Islamic country has now banned twitter, with calls growing louder to ban other social media sites as well, including YouTube and Facebook.

As George Orwell famously said, "Freedom is the right to tell people what they do not want to hear," and social

Pakistan has prohibited the use of Twitter, and several politicians from conservative religious parties are pushing for the ban of other social media platforms too. Social media now poses a challenge to the country's two hidden powers: the military and Islamic clerics. However, outlawing these platforms risks damaging the economy, which is already struggling with crisis.



### **Social media is showing discrimination towards Ahmadiya muslims in Pakistan**

media in Pakistan epitomizes this, causing unease among Islamic scholars.

Pakistan's foundation as a Muslim nation has resulted in the implementation of strict blasphemy laws, with democracy itself viewed as a threat by some. Military dictators have controlled the country for a significant portion of its history, often claiming to restore "true" democracy.

During the reign of military dictator Zia ul-Haq, religious extremism gained ground, leading to the proliferation of Islamic religious schools known as madrasas. For many years, questioning the decrees of either the military or Islamic clerics was unthinkable. However, in recent times, both groups have become targets of the country's unemployed youth.

The emergence of platforms like X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube has empowered Pakistanis

to challenge oppressive traditions openly. Additionally, Pakistan's high birth rate is driving a demographic shift, with its young population shaping the nation's destiny.

Despite this, social media's influence in Pakistan presents a paradox. While Islamic clerics use it for preaching, they also fear its democratic potential.

In 1974, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's government amended Pakistan's constitution, declaring Ahmadis as non-Muslims. As a result, Ahmadis were prohibited from identifying as Muslims or practicing Islamic rituals.

Social media has shed light on the persecution and discrimination faced by Ahmadis in Pakistan, with videos showcasing the desecration of their places of worship reaching a global audience.

Those advocating for a ban on YouTube and other

social media platforms claim they aim to protect the younger generation from being led astray. They worry about the mixing of genders, fearing that unsupervised sharing of emotions conflicts with conservative societal norms surrounding discussions of sex and sexuality. Ironically, Pakistan ranks high in viewing pornography.

Social media has given a voice and means of organization to marginalized groups in Pakistan, who often lack representation in mainstream society. Previously taboo topics such as LGBTQ rights have gained momentum, with social media playing a pivotal role in organizing movements like the Aurat March (Women's March) and campaigns against blasphemy laws.

Nevertheless, frequent shutdowns of the internet and social media impede economic opportunities, especially in digital entrepreneurship, crucial for attracting foreign investment. The government's view of social media sites as harmful to Pakistan's interests worsens this obstacle.

In this politically uncertain climate, international businesses hesitate to invest in Pakistan due to



## PAKISTANIS ABANDONING ISLAM DUE TO SOCIAL MEDIA

On April 9, 2023, Bol TV in Pakistan broadcasted a disturbing conversation among Islamic scholars. In a video clip that went viral, one of the guests claimed that millions of Pakistanis were abandoning Islam due to the influence of social media. They also mentioned that 400,000 Pakistanis were charged with blasphemy in 2023 alone, with only 120 being convicted, expressing dissatisfaction. The religious leaders discussed the risks of the internet for young people. The video sparked strong reactions from celebrities and authors. Filmmaker Jami Azad, Mahira Khan, and Osman Khalid Butt all criticized the remarks. Butt took to Twitter, stating, "Hate is profitable." Australian author and self-proclaimed atheist Harris Sultan reacted strongly on Twitter, urging parents to stop imposing Islam on their children. He referenced the FIA report cited by the religious leaders, warning that the number of Pakistanis critical of Islam would increase if the persecution continued. Sultan also mentioned a 2022 report ranking Pakistan as the 7th most Islamophobic country in the world.

concerns about violence and insecurity. However, with a sizable youth population eager for employment and social progress, the role of social media remains indispensable.

A report from the United Nations in 2018 said that 64 percent of people in Pakistan are younger than 30 years old. Among them, 29 percent are between 15 and 29 years old. This means there are more young people in Pakistan now than ever before, and because of the high number of babies being born, this will likely continue until at least 2050. This change is important because these young folks are using the internet and smartphones a lot.



Pakistan military dictator Zia ul-Haq

Many studies talk about how social media affects people's religious beliefs and practices. Earlier this year, the government blocked access to Twitter, saying it was because of national security worries. People who believe in civil rights have criticized this move, saying it goes against their right to get information.

In the last couple of years, Pakistan has had political trouble and big protests, with people even criticizing the military openly for the first time. Social media has helped gather people for these protests, which is similar to what happened during the Arab Spring.



# DUPING THROUGH NETWORKING

Arora had run away with **100 Crore rupees**

Arora even underwent plastic surgery to alter his identity and relocated to a secluded village in the hill stations of Uttarakhand. However, the police eventually tracked him down. The manner in which he deceived people is undeniably troubling. These networking crimes have persisted for decades, yet individuals continue to fall into this trap, whether knowingly or unknowingly.



By NV Kamath

Scammers frequently target the middle and lower-middle classes, because they are more likely to be swayed by the allure of deep discounts and giveaways.

Neeraj Arora, the mastermind behind the Nature Heights Infra scam, exemplifies this trend. Arrested on April 8th in Uttarakhand, Arora had been evading the police for nine years. Initially apprehended in February 2016 for the same land fraud scheme, he secured bail and subsequently disappeared. He was declared a fugitive in February 2017.

The promise of affordable housing in desirable locations was the key lure used to attract victims. Understanding how this multi-crore rupee scam unfolded and the methods used to deceive people is crucial. However, it's important to remember that not all stories glorify the criminal's journey, from selling groceries to running a fraudulent real estate empire.

Police reports detail Neeraj Arora's criminal activity. Upon his arrest,

prosecutors revealed shocking evidence of defrauding numerous innocent investors and customers.

Arora comes from a seemingly ordinary background. His father was an intelligence officer, and his mother, a teacher. After obtaining his MBA, Arora started selling everyday goods like groceries and soap. Initially, he partnered with a businessman named Pramod Nagpal.



Neeraj Arora after plastic surgery

### Networking Scandal

Arora's official career began at a private networking company, where he honed his networking skills. This experience proved valuable as he co-founded "Natureway Networking Company" in 2002 with an investment of Rs. 7 lakhs.

The company flourished, reaching a turnover of Rs. 100 crores within a decade. Arora's grocery business also thrived, expanding to Rajasthan by 2003.

Natureway Networking Company was a dazzling success story. By 2011, it had exploded across 12 states, boasting a network of 400 stores. Was sheer luck behind this meteoric rise? Not quite. Arora, the

**A person in Punjab has been arrested after nine years on the run. He operated a networking firm that solicited small sums from the general public, dubbing them as business partners and offering expansive plots of land as promised returns. However, once substantial funds were amassed, the founder, Neeraj Arora, vanished with ownership documents of over 1200 acres of land, 200 residential plots, and movable properties worth Rs 100 crore.**

## What is Networking in business?

**Networking indeed employs a unique business strategy, as evidenced by companies like Amway and Modicare. In these setups, salespeople construct a hierarchical pyramid of sales agents, offering the enticing prospect of profit-sharing based on seniority. The breadth of one's network directly correlates with their potential earnings. This model often attracts individuals with promises of lucrative returns, leveraging the allure of exponential growth through expanding networks. However, the reality often reveals a stark contrast, with only a select few at the top reaping substantial rewards while the majority struggle to achieve significant income. Despite the risks and controversies surrounding such schemes, they continue to draw in participants eager to capitalize on the promise of easy wealth.**

company's founder, clocked a staggering 1.6 lakh kilometers, tirelessly building relationships with agents and customers across Punjab and Rajasthan. His dedication was undeniable.

Natureway offered a mind-boggling selection of 500 groceries and products, generating hefty commissions and fueling the company's growth. Until 2012, everything seemed picture-perfect. Neeraj Arora even received the prestigious "Ideal Tax Payer Award" in 2013, solidifying his image as a reliable businessman.

But then came a curious turn. Invested in his own success, Arora decided to venture into real estate in 2012. This new chapter surprised many. After all, he was a grocery kingpin, well-respected by his vast network of clients and agents. Perhaps, it was this very reputation – built on trust

and loyalty in the grocery business – that would prove to be his golden ticket in this new domain.

Nature Heights Infra Ltd, the name chosen for his real estate foray, hinted at a continuation of the "Natureway" legacy. Between 2013 and 2015, they aggressively acquired properties across Punjab. Interestingly, Neeraj Arora wasn't the sole director. Gaurav Chhabra shared the title, while his sister-in-law, Monica Tuli, became the official signatory.

Fueled by Arora's past success and the promise of prime locations in Punjab, many investors poured their hard-earned money into Nature Heights Infra. The company readily accepted these investments, promising plots in exchange. But soon, the dream began to unravel. Delays turned into disappointments, and complaints started surfacing. In a bizarre turn of events, some investors discovered that the promised properties simply didn't exist. Others found themselves embroiled in ownership disputes, where the land

they supposedly purchased belonged to entirely different parties!

### Arora's Stinking Wealth

According to Ferozpur DIG Tanjit Singh Dhillon, Arora possessed a BMW car and a collection of fraudulent identification documents. He allegedly used these

documents to conceal his true identity and avoid apprehension by authorities.

Arora and his wife, known as the "Thai couple" and hailing from Abohar, Punjab, are reported to own significant assets, including over 1200 acres of land, 200 residential plots, and movable property exceeding Rs 100 crore. The investigation revealed that the couple had been living a



Singh Dhillon

## Judge is also Victim

The Nature Heights Infra scam ensnared not just ordinary citizens, but even respected figures of authority. One such victim was Judge Singh of Faridkot district. Trusting the company's promises, he invested a significant sum of Rs. 91 lakh. He was lured by the vision of a four-acre plot with a landscaped garden – a dream that turned into a cruel deception. Judge Singh's story reflects the wider plight of the investors. They not only lost the promised land or flats, but also the regular returns on their investments that abruptly stopped. To add insult to injury, many received bounced checks. The company vanished without a trace, leaving its branches shuttered and investors helpless. Despite pleas for the return of their hard-earned money, the victims were met with silence. Arora failed to deliver on his promises, and when investors sought recourse, the company abruptly shut down. Most disturbingly, many of the promised

plots lacked the necessary government approvals, rendering them worthless. Left with no choice, and facing substantial financial losses, the victims were forced to file complaints against the company and its directors. This included Neeraj Arora's wife and sister-in-law, who, along with other accomplices, had vanished for over seven years. The authorities finally stepped in. The Enforcement Directorate launched an investigation, registering cases against Neeraj Arora and seizing some of his properties. Hundreds of complaints piled up in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, a testament to the widespread fraud. Investigations began in 2017 after a deluge of complaints, with 491 investors coming forward. While Arora was initially arrested in 2016, he managed to escape on bail. The Enforcement Directorate has pursued justice, attaching assets worth around Rs. 22 crore and freezing bank accounts. But for the victims, the struggle for compensation and closure continues.



### NEERAJ ARORA ASSETS



transient lifestyle, using fake identities to evade capture.

Authorities discovered that Arora attempted plastic surgery to alter his appearance and escape arrest. However, due to a lack of funds, the surgery was reportedly unsuccessful. Medical records from the hospital support this claim. Additionally, the investigation suggests that Arora traveled to Thailand and Cambodia during his time as a fugitive.

The arrest of Gaurav Chhabra, co-director of Nature Heights Infra Limited, in Faridkot (February 2023) and Menaka Tuli in Uttarakhand (April 2024) proved pivotal in locating Arora. Fazilka's SSP Pragya Jain's role in this operation was commended by officials. The arrest of Amandeep Kamboj alias Aman Škoda, another proclaimed offender, in March 2024, also contributed to Arora's apprehension.





# Have You Heard Frogs Screaming?

**R**ecently, scientists made a fascinating discovery about certain frogs: they have the ability to emit screams that are inaudible to humans but can be heard by other animals. This marks the first observation of amphibians employing "defensive ultrasound" to protect themselves.

In the Amazonian forest, Brazilian scientists conducted a study where they observed certain frogs emitting screams at incredibly high volumes, potentially harmful to other animals, yet completely imperceptible to human ears due to their frequency.

These frogs, known as small leaf litter frogs, produce their screams by arching their backs, throwing back their heads, and opening their mouths wide. Although humans cannot hear any sound, this peculiar behavior intrigued scientists, prompting them to further investigate.

Using high-frequency audio

recording devices, scientists were able to capture the frogs' screams, revealing the first documented instance of amphibians utilizing defensive ultrasound. Researchers from Brazil's State University of Campinas believe that these screams serve as a response to predator attacks, potentially acting as a signal to attract other animals to intervene.



During the study, scientists recorded the screams on two separate occasions for analysis. Upon examination, they determined that the frequency range of these screams ranged from 7 kilohertz (kHz) to 44 kHz. This frequency falls beyond the hearing range of humans, who typically cannot detect sounds

above 20 kHz, categorized as ultrasound.

Various animals, including bats, whales, rhinos, dogs, pigeons, and cuttlefish, communicate using infrasonic and ultrasonic frequencies, none of which are audible to humans.



## A British Sandwich Uncovers American Evading Police

**A**rthur Knight, a seemingly respectable gentleman residing in Scotland, had a secret past that came back to haunt him in the most peculiar way.



Knight, it turns out, wasn't who he claimed to be. This Rhode Island resident had faked his own demise to escape arrest. However,

his elaborate ruse unraveled not in a dramatic showdown, but over a distinctly British dish.

On a TV appearance discussing his "miraculous return from the dead," Knight expressed a shocking lack of knowledge about coronation chicken, a well-loved UK staple. This red flag caught the eye of a pub owner, who thought, "Surely, a real Brit would know about coronation chicken?"

As it turned out, the pub owner was right. Knight, or rather Nicholas



Rossi (as authorities believed), was a wanted sex offender by the FBI. His fabricated life, complete with a fabricated wife who believed his story, came crashing down.

Even a coma couldn't save Rossi from his past. Waking up surrounded by police, he faced the consequences of his alleged crimes. This story serves as a bizarre reminder that sometimes, the truth can be unearthed in the most unexpected places – like a plate of coronation chicken.





# MALDIVES FOLLOWS PAKISTAN?

WITH FOREIGN  
RESERVE  
SHRINKING,  
MALDIVES  
ECONOMY IN  
CRISIS



By Wing Commandar Sudarshan

The idyllic island nation of Maldives, famed for its turquoise waters and luxurious resorts, could be facing a hidden storm. Its once-healthy reserve of US dollars, the lifeblood of international trade, is dwindling at an alarming rate.

Think of US dollars as the universal language of global commerce. Countries use them to buy and sell goods from one another. A healthy reserve of these dollars reflects a nation's economic strength.

Here's the worry: Maldives relies heavily on imports for everything from essential food grains to fuel. It's a







Sheikh Adam Nishan and Sheikh Fazloon Mohamed and a senior member of Progressive Party of Maldives' (PPM) Mohamed Ismail were arrested for disturbance caused during "Yoga Day" event organised by the Indian High Commission.

**Maldives' economy is on the verge of collapse. Similar to Pakistan, it is rapidly depleting its US dollar reserves, essential for importing goods such as food grains and petrol. Moreover, the number of tourists visiting the country is dwindling, with nations like Australia cautioning their citizens against traveling to Maldives. It wouldn't be shocking if Maldives mirrors the economic challenges faced by Pakistan.**

beautiful archipelago, but not exactly known for its booming agricultural sector. Tourism, its golden goose, accounts for nearly 30% of the country's GDP. But with tourist arrivals, particularly from India, on a downward spiral, the economic picture is getting bleaker by the day.

The latest reports reveal a concerning truth - Maldives' foreign currency reserve is precariously low, hovering around \$200 million. What's even more worrisome is that only a portion of this, around \$165 million, is readily usable.

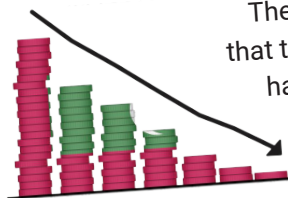
This situation has international rating agencies raising red flags. They're placing Maldives in the same category as nations like Pakistan, where a lack of foreign currency has caused widespread economic hardship.

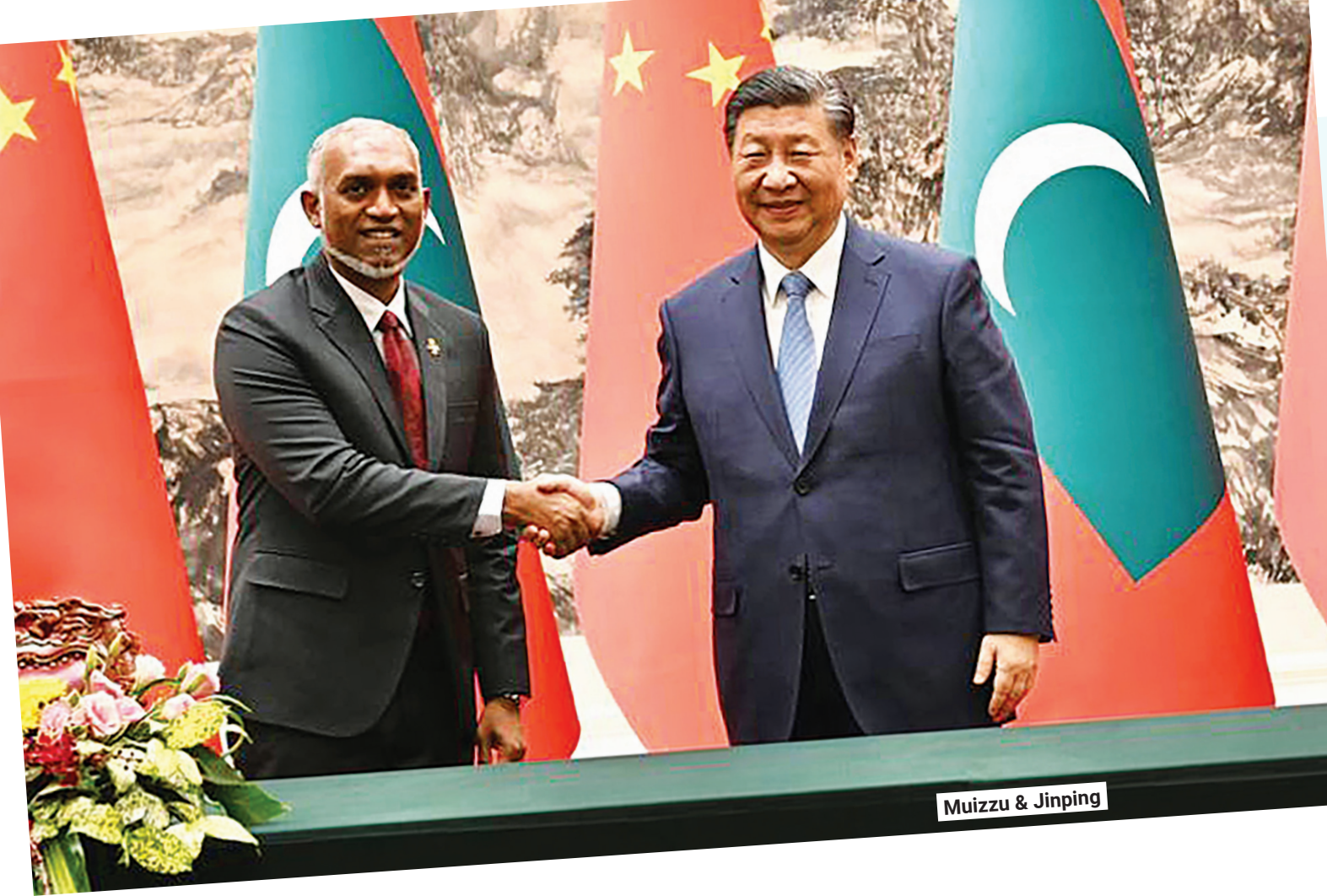
Industries have been forced to shut down, and everyday essentials have skyrocketed in price.

As if the dwindling dollar reserves weren't enough, a mountain of debt is threatening to bury the Maldives even further. The island nation's entire economy is valued at roughly \$4 billion, yet it owes a staggering \$6 billion to foreign creditors.

China holds the lion's share of this debt, with over \$1 billion owed to the Asian giant. India isn't far behind, claiming around \$300 million. To make matters worse, a hefty \$500 million loan repayment looms from Islamic nations in the Middle East.

The situation is so dire that the Maldivian president has hinted at halting all development





Muizzu & Jinping

projects to prioritize debt servicing. But the consequences of defaulting are equally terrifying. Lenders could seize vital assets like seaports or even entire islands.

Sri Lanka serves as a stark reminder of the potential devastation. In 2017, a Chinese firm took control of Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port after the country failed to meet its loan repayment deadline.

China, unsurprisingly, has been a major investor in the Maldives through its Belt and Road Initiative. Most of the Maldives' debt to China stems from this ambitious infrastructure development project.

### **Pakistan in the Making?**

A staggering figure hangs over the island nation – over 60% of its national debt is owed to Chinese lenders, according to the Observer Research Foundation (ORF). This debt burden is projected to balloon in the coming years, with the Maldives needing to dedicate a record \$1.07 billion to servicing it by 2026.

Even with anticipated deficit reductions, the overall debt will remain dangerously high, exceeding 115% of GDP.

Tourism is the heart of the Maldivian economy, directly contributing to GDP and providing

# Are Indian Tourists Choosing Sri Lanka Over Maldives?

Did you catch wind of the curious chain of events earlier this year? Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to share videos of his vacation escapades in Lakshadweep set off alarm bells in the Maldives government. In response, three Deputy Ministers under Muizzu's administration lashed out with disparaging remarks against Modi and India, igniting a global uproar. The fallout was swift and intense. Infuriated Indians took to social media platforms in droves, sparking the viral "Boycott Maldives" movement. Within moments, flight bookings and hotel reservations were being canceled en masse. Up until then, Indian travelers had been the primary patrons of Maldivian tourism. However, within weeks, their numbers plummeted to fifth place and continued to dwindle. Fast forward to the present, and the decline in Indian tourist arrivals to the Maldives stands at a staggering 35%. But here's an intriguing twist: While the Maldives suffered, neighboring Sri Lanka witnessed a surge in Indian tourists during this tumultuous period, hinting

at a shift in travel preferences towards alternative destinations. Maldives' Growing Radical Islam, Pakistani style Maldives was once a Buddhist country. In the 12th century, people across the island became Muslims. There is little information whether they accepted Islam on their own or were forced to convert. Today, it is the only country in the world, where if you are not a Muslim, you cannot earn a citizenship.



Muizzu

When Islamic State (IS) militants built their own Khalifa (kingdom) in parts of Syria and Iraq, many Maldivian youths went and joined them. At least 423 Maldivians attempted to join the IS, according to Maldives police chief Mohamed Hameed. Like Pakistan, Maldives educational system is very poor but madararas, or Islamic schools, are mushrooming all over. The Saudi-exported Wahabism is growing at a rapid speed. "Maldives going down the path of Pak-inspired radicalism" reads a recent article in The Sunday Guardian. "In 2004, religious scholars and people who claimed to be members of civil society, from across Pakistan and

Saudi Arabia, arrived in huge numbers in capital Male,” the paper narrated. They took with them gullible and unemployed youths for religious training to Pakistan and Arabia. Many Maldivian youth studying in Pakistan joined the Taliban in the war against the Soviet Russia. On their return, they are continuously carrying out jihadi activities. In 2007, there was a bomb blast in Sultan Park, which killed many local politicians and injured more than twelve foreign tourists. In 2019, the government received an



intelligence inputs, revealing that there were about 1,400 Islamic extremists in the Maldives who would not hesitate to kill anyone. In June 2022, local Islamist scholars Sheikh Adam Nishan and Sheikh Fazloon Mohamed and a senior member of Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) Mohamed Ismail were arrested for instigating the mob that stormed the Maldives national football stadium and attacked participants at the “Yoga Day” event organised by the Indian High Commission.

countless jobs. It's estimated that the entire tourism sector, including related industries like transportation, restaurants, and hospitality, contributes a whopping 79% to GDP.

Tourism taxes also make up a significant chunk of government revenue, accounting for roughly 70%.

However, this dependence on tourism leaves the Maldives vulnerable. The narrow economic base with limited diversification beyond tourism and fishing makes the nation susceptible to external shocks. Declining fish catches due to environmental factors further complicate matters.

The situation is compounded by the Maldives' remote location, small population, and constant threat from climate change. Rising sea levels and coral reef degradation pose a direct threat to the very industry the nation relies on.

While Indian tourists currently

dominate visitor arrivals, China's past dominance in the sector remains a cause for concern. Experts worry that even if Chinese tourist numbers rebound, the geographical distance from major markets might continue to hinder progress.

The Maldives' situation bears an uncanny resemblance to the recent economic crisis in Sri Lanka, another nation heavily indebted to China. With a mountain of debt and a tourism sector facing challenges, can the Maldives navigate this economic storm or will it succumb to the same fate as its neighbor?

### **What about India's Role?**

Did you know that the Maldives holds a crucial position in India's maritime security strategy? Nestled amidst major shipping routes linking east and west Asia, this archipelago is a key player in India's strategic calculations.

In a surprising move back in November

2022, India extended a financial lifeline of \$100 million to the Maldives, aiding the island nation in tackling its economic woes.

During a crisis, India stepped in with remarkable assistance. Through 'Operation Sanjivini', India delivered thousands of vaccine vials and vast quantities of drinking water when the Maldives' sole desalination plant was engulfed in flames.

Here's an intriguing fact: In 2023, the Maldives raked in a staggering \$380 million from Indian tourists alone, with over 200,000 visitors from India exploring its pristine shores.

But wait, there's more to the story. Recently, the Maldives made some eyebrow-raising decisions. They opted not to renew a significant 2019 agreement with India regarding a hydrographic survey of their waters. Moreover, the Muizzu-led government has even requested the withdrawal of Indian troops from their soil, hinting at potential complications ahead.

And in a twist that left many scratching their heads, the Maldives chose to skip a crucial security dialogue in Mauritius just last month. This move has sparked speculation about the Maldives' dedication to regional security cooperation efforts in the Indian Ocean.

In response, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attempted to lure visitors to Lakshadweep, putting a series of videos on social media, showcasing the picturesque beaches of Lakshadweep, engaging in water sports, and encouraging people to visit the islands for a memorable experience.

The repercussions of the boycott of the Maldives by Indian tourists in early 2024 dealt another blow to Maldives, resulting in the sharp decline in tourism.



Foreign currency reserve

**\$200 million**

Readily usable

**\$165 million**

Nation's entire economy

**\$4 billion**

Owes foreign creditors

**\$6 billion**

Major dept

**China \$1 billion**

**India \$300 million**

Middle East Islamic nations

**\$500 million**

In 2023, the Maldives raked in a staggering \$380 million from Indian tourists alone, with over 200,000 visitors from India exploring its pristine shores.



AI generated image

# AUTOMAT

**Your jobs are  
being taken  
over by faceless  
machines**

By Dr Sunil G

**T**ailors who stitch men's clothing have all but vanished from cities across the country, yet men continue to don fashionable attire. But where have these tailors gone? The truth is, machines have assumed much of the work in the textile industry, with many machines now serving as tailors.



**It is now abundantly clear that machines are taking over your work, leaving you jobless. India's economy is growing rapidly, but this growth is not creating as many jobs. This is largely due to machines replacing a significant portion of existing jobs. This is what we call automation.**

When people used to talk about automation years ago, many of us may have brushed it aside. But now, automation is a stark reality. Machines are replacing human jobs, and AI is automating nearly every repetitive task.

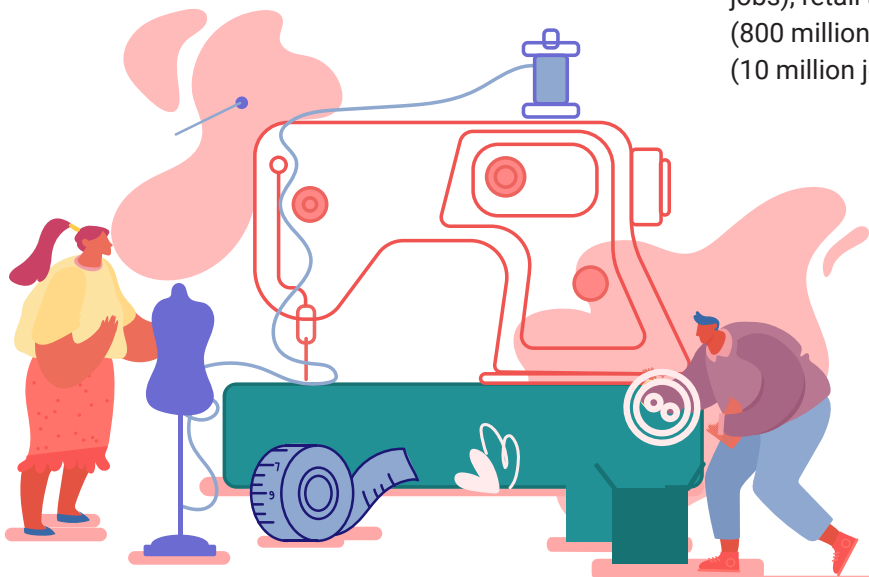
If a machine detects a pattern in a particular job, it will take over that task. Similarly, it found the job of the tailor to be repetitive and thus replaced it.

Millions of unskilled jobs are at risk of automation worldwide. To weather this storm, you must ensure that your job is not repetitive and that you possess skills that surpass those of machines.

According to the WEF report, by 2027, around 83 million jobs will disappear, but about 69 million new jobs will come up. So, there will be a net loss of about 14 million jobs, which is about two percent of all the jobs in the world. AI is changing things so much that it's like a new industrial revolution. Like in past revolutions, this one might bring better ways of working but also make some people lose their jobs.

It seems like by 2040, jobs in all sectors around the world might be at risk. Some examples of job losses due to automation are in IT (9 million jobs), retail and customer service (800 million jobs), financial services (10 million jobs), automotive (300

# ATION



**No government on this planet can halt this wave of automation. If your job is as complex as designing elaborate dresses for women, then your job is relatively secure. Tailors stitching men's dresses have become increasingly scarce. In summary, safer jobs are those that are not repetitive and similar in nature.**

million jobs), manufacturing (20 million jobs), and transportation and logistics (15 million jobs). It's clear that jobs that don't need much creativity from humans are getting done more accurately by machines.

### **Begin in Call Centers**

Across the world, stock investors are dumping the shares of top call center firms, such as Paris-based Teleperformance. That's because they believe that AI could send contact center service obsolete.

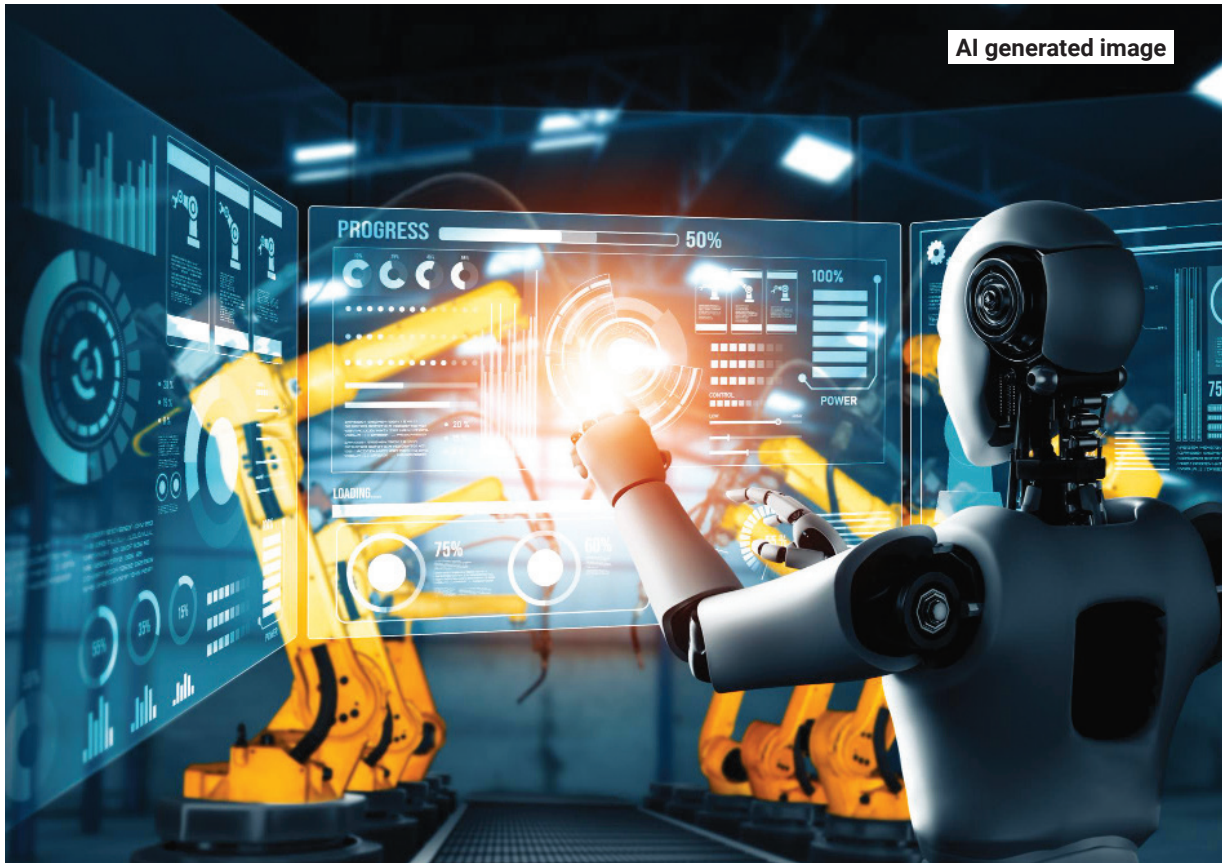
In fact, call centers serve as the backbone of the corporate sector, acting as a vital link between companies and their customers. Through direct interaction, they strengthen the bond between the company and its clientele. However, a global trend has emerged where companies across the board are reducing manpower in call centers and turning to chatbots to address customer inquiries. These automated systems efficiently handle frequently

asked questions, streamlining customer service processes. While this automation has streamlined operations, it has also led to a decline in job opportunities within the business process outsourcing (BPO) and call center industries.

In the realm of software companies, roles such as Software Engineer-1 and Software Engineer-2 primarily focus on programming tasks. These engineers are typically overseen by group leaders who handle more advanced responsibilities like code checking, guidance, and system process planning. With the advent of AI capable of performing repetitive coding tasks, questions arise regarding the future of these roles as machines begin to undertake programming tasks traditionally handled by engineers.

The shift towards digital payments at toll plazas has significantly reduced the need for toll booth operators, signaling a potential decline in this occupation due to automation. Similarly, the newspaper industry is experiencing a shift as readers increasingly turn to online media for news consumption, potentially leading to job losses in print media journalism and related fields. The rise of e-books, audiobooks, and automated library systems has also impacted traditional library roles, raising concerns about the future of librarian





and library staff positions.

In the transportation sector, preparations are underway to introduce automated ticketing machines on buses, eliminating the need for conductors. This shift reflects a broader trend towards automation in various industries, including those traditionally reliant on manual labor.

In sectors like the military and healthcare, automation plays a critical role in enhancing efficiency and accuracy. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are increasingly deployed for surveillance and intervention on the battlefield, potentially impacting the roles of fighter jet pilots. Similarly, automation is transforming

medical processes, from record management and diagnosis to treatment and surgery, potentially reducing the need for certain roles such as nurses, data operators, and supporting doctors in hospitals.

### **Puncture Shops Facing Threat of Automation**

Puncture shops might disappear soon because of a new technology called Puncture Guard Tire. This tire has a special coating inside that can heal punctures by itself. It can fix holes made by sharp things or other stuff up to 6.0 mm wide. With this tire, you won't lose air, and you can enjoy a



## WHERE ARE GENTS' TAILORS THESE DAYS?

**In the Apparel Industry, automation handles tasks like cutting, sewing, and quality control. Nowadays, it's rare to find a tailor stitching men's clothes, but there are still tailors who specialize in women's clothing. This is because machines are better suited for repetitive and simpler tasks. Women's clothing tends to be more intricate and artistic in design and craftsmanship compared to men's clothing. As a result, skilled tailors who work with women's clothing are more secure in their jobs, even as automation becomes more widespread.**

smooth ride without any trouble.

There's another new invention: an airless tire made by a European company. This tire has strong spokes and a mesh-like structure around the wheel. It's flexible, so it can change shape when it goes over bumps or rough surfaces.

In California, there are now driverless

taxis, which is a big step in car automation. These cars have a "neural network" like our brains, which helps them think and understand things. They decide how to drive by watching the cars around them, looking at the driver's history, and following all the traffic rules. This could mean fewer jobs for drivers in the future.



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