

PSA on AAP MLA

Mehraj Malik: A question of proportionality

The decision to slap the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) on Mehraj Malik, the lone Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Jammu and Kashmir, and lodge him in Kathua district jail has sparked intense debate over the limits of state action against an elected representative. While Malik's reputation for intemperate speech and frequent use of offensive language is well known, invoking PSA against him raises troubling questions of democratic propriety and proportionality.

The PSA, a preventive detention law that allows incarceration without trial for extended periods, was crafted to deal with threats to public order and security, particularly from separatist or extremist activities. Applying it to a sitting legislator—even one with a “filthy tongue”—appears disproportionate and sets a dangerous precedent. An MLA is an elected representative under the Constitution of India, and subjecting him to such extraordinary measures dilutes the sanctity of democratic institutions.

There is no denying that Malik should exercise restraint and responsibility in his public utterances. Political freedom cannot become a license to glorify violence, provoke unrest, or demean public sensibilities. If he crossed the line, the government had ample legal remedies at hand, including criminal prosecution for incitement or defamation. Courts remain the natural forum to decide such cases, ensuring both accountability and fairness. But PSA short-circuits this due process, replacing judicial scrutiny with executive discretion.

This move may also feed into a larger perception that dissenting or inconvenient voices in Jammu and Kashmir are being muzzled through administrative overreach. Instead of silencing Malik, the government risks handing him political martyrdom, a space he could exploit to project himself as a victim of state high-handedness.

Meanwhile, a team of lawyers is preparing to challenge the detention in the High Court. This legal battle will test the judiciary's willingness to assert constitutional protections against preventive detention when applied in questionable circumstances.

Malik's foul rhetoric deserves censure, but the government's response must remain firmly within democratic guardrails. Resorting to PSA against an MLA, however provocative, is too blunt an instrument—one that undermines both political discourse and constitutional balance.

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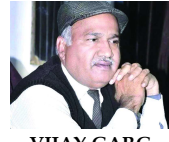
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Mosquitoes are responsible for transmitting a wide range of diseases to humans, including malaria, dengue, Zika, and yellow fever, which kill hundreds of thousands of people each year. It's easy to see why we would want to get rid of them entirely. However, the issue is more complex than it seems.

Here's a breakdown of the ecological roles mosquitoes play and what might happen if we were to eliminate them: What purpose do mosquitoes serve?

While their role as disease vectors is undeniable, mosquitoes also play a part in the ecosystem.

* Pollinators: Many people don't realize that mosquitoes are pollinators. Their primary food source is not blood, but

rather flower nectar and other plant juices. As they feed, they transfer pollen from flower to flower, helping various plants to reproduce. Some specific plants, like the blunt-leaf orchid, are even primarily pollinated by mosquitoes.

* Food source: Mosquitoes, in both their larval and adult stages, are a significant food source for a variety of other animals. Mosquito larvae are eaten by fish, turtles, amphibians, and other aquatic insects. Adult mosquitoes are prey for birds (including hummingbirds), bats, frogs, lizards, dragonflies, and spiders. In some ecosystems, particularly in the Arctic tundra, they form a massive part of the biomass and are a crucial food source for migratory birds.

* Nutrient cycling: Mosquito larvae live in stagnant water and consume decaying organic matter, helping to break down complex compounds and recycle nutrients within aquatic environments. What would happen if we got rid of them?

Scientists have debated this question, and the general consensus is that a mass

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Mosquitoes suck- but should we simply get rid of them



extinction of mosquitoes would likely not cause an ecological collapse. However, it wouldn't be without consequences.

* Disruptions to the food web: While no single animal is known to feed exclusively on mosquitoes, their sudden disappearance would create a temporary gap in the food chain.

Predators that rely on them as a key food source would have to adapt their diets, and some specialized predators, like the mosquitofish, could face difficulties. This could have a ripple effect, causing a decrease in the populations of animals that feed on

mosquitoes.

* Loss of pollinators: While other pollinators would likely fill the void left by mosquitoes, some plants that rely on them for pollination could struggle or even go extinct.

* A "messy" extinction: There are over 3,500 species of mosquitoes, and only a fraction of them (around 200 species) bite humans. A global eradication effort would be incredibly difficult and would likely wipe out many species that pose no threat to humans and have important ecological roles.

A more targeted approach

The "kill them all" approach is

generally considered to be both ecologically risky and practically impossible. The better strategy, according to many scientists, is to focus on controlling the specific mosquito species that transmit diseases to humans.

Researchers are working on innovative and more targeted methods to combat these dangerous species, such as:

* Gene editing: Modifying mosquitoes so they are unable to transmit diseases or are sterile.

* Sterile insect technique: Releasing sterile male mosquitoes to reduce the population.

* Biological control: Using natural predators like fish that eat mosquito larvae or bacteria like Wolbachia that can sterilize mosquitoes.

In conclusion, while the idea of a world without mosquitoes is appealing from a human health perspective, a complete eradication could have unforeseen and potentially negative consequences for the environment. A more nuanced and targeted approach that focuses on the disease-carrying species seems to be the most prudent way forward.

Challenges and Opportunities of Fundamental Writing in the Digital



VIJAY GARG

Fundamental writing is a complex subject in the digital age, in which both challenges and opportunities are faced. Let's discuss this in detail. Challenges of Fundamental Writing in the Digital Era The digital age has changed the world of writing a lot, making it a challenge to maintain originality. Some of the major challenges are as follows:

More digital age of information The fundamental writing challenges and the risk of opportunism and imitation. Huge repository of information is available on the internet. This often affects the author's views of others, and may lack

originality in his writings unknowingly. A tool like Google has increased the risk of plagiarism, where people can easily copy someone else's work.

Increasing effect of artificial intelligence (AI): AI tools like ChatGPT can write very fast and well. However, they write on the basis of data that already exists, which lacks originality in their writing. This is a big challenge as AI-generated content is coping with fundamental human writing. Lack of focus (F): There is a lot of content available on digital mediums making it difficult for readers to maintain a space. The author has to impress the readers in a short span of time, making small and quick content a priority in place of detailed and deep-thinking writing.

Publication pressure: There is pressure to publish content instantly through blogs, social media and online magazines. Due to this fast pace the author does not have enough time to do deep research and brainstorming, which may



affect the quality and originality of his writing. Fundamental Writing

Opportunities in the Digital Era Despite challenges, the digital era has also created many new and exciting opportunities for fundamental writing. Freedom and accessibility of expression: The digital platform has made writing democratic. Now no writer has to depend on big publishing houses to publish his creations. The blog, website, social media, and self-publishing platform

have given everyone a chance to reach their voice to the world.

Access to wider audience: An author's work through the Internet can reach readers across the world in a few moments. This not only increases their access, but also gives them instant response to their work, which can improve their writing.

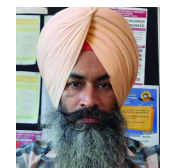
Development of new formats: Digital mediums have not just restricted to written content. The authors can now also

present their stories and ideas in new formats such as audio, video, podcast, and interactive stories. It makes writing even more creative and engaging. Direct communication between the reader and the author: Through comments on blogs and social media, the authors can directly connect with their readers.

This dialogue makes the process of writing more dynamic and helps the author understand what their readers want. conclusion The digital era of course has created new challenges for fundamental writing, such as a plethora of information and the impact of AI, but it has also created unlimited opportunities for writers.

Now writers can reach the world with more freedom and prevalence of their voices. In this new environment, writers need to be more vigilant and aware in order to maintain originality. They should focus on their creativity and intense brainstorming so that they can make their writing relevant and effective even in the digital era.

World Ozone Day



SURINDERPAL SINGH

September 16 is celebrated across the globe as World Ozone Day and it is officially known as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. This day was established by the United Nations in 1994 and this day marks the anniversary of the signing of the Montreal Protocol in 1987, a landmark international treaty designed to phase out substances responsible for ozone layer depletion. World Ozone Day serves as a reminder call to renewed action in the face of continuing threats being faced by the ozone layer. It highlights the critical role the ozone layer plays in protecting life on Earth and underscores the collective responsibility of humanity to preserve this vital atmospheric shield.

Formation of the Ozone Layer Ozone (O₃) is a triatomic molecule consisting of three oxygen atoms. It is formed in the stratosphere, approximately 15 to 35 kilometers above Earth's surface, through a process driven by solar ultraviolet radiation. The formation of ozone follows the Chapman

Cycle, first proposed by British scientist Sydney Chapman in 1930:

Oxygen Photodissociation: Ultraviolet light (wavelength < 240 nm) splits molecular oxygen (O₂) into two atomic oxygen (O):

Ozone Formation: The atomic oxygen (O) reacts with molecular oxygen (O₂) in the presence of a third molecule (M, often N₂ or O₂) to form ozone (O₃):

Ozone Photolysis: Ozone molecules absorb UV-B radiation (280-315 nm) and dissociate back into molecular and atomic oxygen:

This dynamic equilibrium ensures a relatively stable ozone concentration, forming what is globally recognized as the ozone layer.

Importance of the Ozone Layer The primary function of the ozone layer is to shield life on Earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation. Specifically, it absorbs the majority of UV-B and nearly all UV-C radiation, both of which are highly harmful to the biological systems. Without the protection of ozone layer humanity can be effected in the following ways:

Increased UV radiation would lead to a surge in skin cancers, cataracts and immunological deficiencies in humans. Agricultural productivity would decline as many crops are sensitive to UV exposure.

Marine ecosystems, especially phytoplankton, which form the base of the aquatic food web, would face severe disruption. Synthetic polymers and materials would degrade faster,

leading to economic losses.

In essence, the ozone layer functions as Earth's natural sunscreen making it crucial for ecological and human health.

Causes of Ozone Depletion The discovery of the ozone hole over Antarctica in the 1980s brought widespread attention to the anthropogenic causes of ozone layer depletion. Chief among these are chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons and other ozone-depleting substances (ODS) which, though once widely used in refrigeration, air conditioning, foam production and aerosol propellants are highly stable compounds that persist in the atmosphere for decades.

When these chemicals reach the stratosphere, ultraviolet radiation breaks them down releasing chlorine (Cl) and bromine (Br) atoms. These atoms catalytically destroy ozone through the following reactions:

Chlorine cycle: One chlorine atom can destroy thousands of ozone molecules before being deactivated. Factors Exacerbating Ozone Depletion Several environmental factors exacerbate ozone depletion, notably:

Polar Stratospheric Clouds (PSCs): Formed under extreme cold conditions in polar regions, PSCs provide surfaces for chemical reactions that convert stable chlorine compounds into active chlorine, accelerating ozone breakdown.

Climate Change: Rising greenhouse gas concentrations affects the

stratospheric temperatures, altering ozone chemistry and circulation patterns potentially exacerbating localized depletion.

Volcanic Eruptions: Massive volcanic eruptions can inject particles into the stratosphere, increasing PSC formation and promoting chlorine activation.

Steps for Ozone Layer Conservation In response to global alarm, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987) was established, representing a landmark in international environmental policy. The protocol and its amendments have led to:

A phased reduction and eventual ban of CFCs, halons and related compounds.

Promotion of alternative, ozone-friendly substances such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Beyond policy frameworks, essential conservation steps include:

Monitoring and Research: Continuous satellite-based and ground-based monitoring of ozone levels and stratospheric conditions.

Public Awareness and Industry Compliance: Educating stakeholders about the environmental impact of ozone depleting substances ODS and promoting industrial transitions to eco-friendly technologies.

Scientific Innovation: Development of sustainable refrigeration and manufacturing alternatives.

The Need for International Joint Efforts Ozone depletion is an

international problem that transcends national borders. The Montreal Protocol remains the most successful environmental treaty demonstrating how international cooperation can lead to measurable environmental recovery.

Nonetheless, continued vigilance is essential: Strengthening global compliance and enforcement. Supporting developing nations in transitioning away from ozone depleting substances ODS.

Addressing new challenges, such as the environmental impact of HFCs, which, while not harmful to ozone are potent greenhouse gases contributing to climate change.

Joint global action is imperative to prevent the reversal of gains and ensure a fully recovered ozone layer by mid-21st century, as projected by current scientific models.

World Ozone Day serves as an important reminder of humanity's capacity to tackle environmental crises through science, international policies and global unity. The ozone layer remains an invisible but critical guardian of life protecting ecosystems and human health from harmful ultraviolet radiation.

Continued scientific research, international collaboration and innovative technological innovation must remain at the forefront of the global efforts.

The future of the planet's habitability depends on how diligently humanity care for this fragile atmospheric shield today.