

26 February, 2022

Bloatware Apps

❖ Context

- **Bloatware apps** are being criticized for **taking up the storage of the device unnecessarily** and **affecting the system's battery life** and overall **performance**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Bloatware apps come **pre-installed** in every newly purchased phone, tablet or computer.
- Most of it **takes up the storage** of the device unnecessarily and even affects the system's **battery life and overall performance**.
- These programs usually **do more harm** than good.

❖ About Bloatware Apps

- **Potentially Unwanted Programs (PUP)**, more popularly known as bloatware apps are needless programs that take a toll on your device's performance.
- Device manufacturers introduced these bloatware apps to **provide users with additional programs** that they might want to use, while making money on the way.
- Gradually, these apps, rather than being helpful, end up being a headache for users.
- Generally, these apps that run in the background are hidden and **locating them becomes a tough job** for the users.
- It could be any software on computer, phone or tablet that consumes a lot of resources like — memory, storage and battery life.
- This hogging up of resources **slows down the performance of your device**.
- These apps **curb the efficiency of the system** and make the device frustrating to use and can even lead to security threats.

❖ Different Types of Bloatwares Found on Devices

- **Utilities:**
 - It comes from manufacturers and third-party developers
 - Usually **pre-loaded** on devices.
 - **Offer added functionality** to the device,
 - Become bloatware if you don't use them regularly.
 - Third-party utilities **can be removed right easily**, but **manufacturer utilities often can be hard to uninstall**.
- **Trialware:**
 - Found usually on **Windows computers**
 - Usually comes with **preloaded softwares** that needs a license to work.
 - Users can experience the app as most of them **offer free trial modes in new devices**.
 - These programs keep on **consuming your device's resources**, even after the trial period is over.
 - Usually **don't pose security threats** but affect device performance.
 - **Can be removed easily**.
- **Adware:**
 - It **gets downloaded** while downloading softwares from the internet.
 - **Don't always pose security risks** and constantly show ads on your web.
 - These pop-ups can be usually annoying and will make you want to delete them immediately.
 - Some manufacturers also sell their devices with pre-installed adwares.

P-8I, The Indian Navy's Frontline Multi-Mission Aircraft

❖ Context

- Recently, Aviation and defense colossus **Boeing** delivered India's 12th maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare **P-8I aircraft**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The first of these aircraft was **inducted in 2013**, and it **made India the first country outside the United States** to get one. The **Navy has been receiving them regularly since**.
- The aircraft is designed for "long-range anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions. It is a "multi-mission aircraft" with "state of the art sensors, proven weapons systems, and a globally recognised platform.

❖ P-8I and Other Countries

- Apart from India and the US, it has been chosen by **six other militaries** in the world.
- The aircraft has **two variants** —
 - the **P-8I**, which is manufactured for the Indian Navy.
 - The Other one is **P-8A Poseidon**, which is flown by the US Navy, the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force, and the Royal Norwegian Air Force.
 - It has also been selected by the Royal New Zealand Air Force, the Republic of Korea Navy, and the German Navy.

❖ Naval Operations

- The aircraft for the Indian Navy are called P-8I.
- It has **replaced the aging Soviet/Russian Tupolev Tu-142s**.
- The P-8Is are capable of **anti-submarine**; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (**ISR**); **patrolling, coastline defense, and other operations**.

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❖ Tech specs

- The P-8I can fly as high as **41,000 feet**. It has a **short transit time**, which reduces the size of the “**Area of Probability when searching for submarines, surface vessels or search and rescue survivors**”.
- It is also **used for low altitude**, humanitarian, and search and rescue missions.
- The aircraft has **two engines**, and is about 40 meters long, with a wingspan of 37.64 meters. Each aircraft **weighs about 85,000 kg**. It has a **top speed of 490 knots**, or 789 km/hour.
- It requires a **crew of nine**, and has a range of 1,200+ nautical miles, with 4 hours on station, which means about 2,222 km. According to Boeing, more than 140 P-8 aircraft have “executed more than 400,000 mishap free flight-hours around the globe”.

Bhasha Certificate Selfie campaign

❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Education** launched the campaign to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

❖ Key Highlights

- The initiative, **under the aegis of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** will aim to ensure that people acquire **basic conversational skills in Indian languages**.
- To achieve this, a **target of 75 lakh people acquiring basic conversational skills** has been set.
- The Ministry of Education and MyGov India has developed a **Bhasha Sangam Mobile App** which was launched on October 31, 2021 while commemorating Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, celebrated every year, to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Using the app, **people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use** in as many as **22 scheduled Indian languages**.
- To receive a certificate authorised by the Ministry of Education, a user needs to **download the mobile app**, select any language from 22 scheduled Indian languages, finish all the levels, give a test and **earn a certificate**.
- The ‘Bhasha Certificate Selfie’ initiative aims to encourage people to **upload their selfie with the certificate** from their social media accounts using the **hashtag #BhashaCertificateSelfie**.

❖ Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- The programme was launched by **Ministry of Education on 31 Oct 2015**. It aims to **enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding** between people of different states/UTs through the **concept of state/UT pairing**.
- The states carry out activities to promote a **sustained and structured cultural connection** in the areas of language learning, culture, traditions & music, tourism & cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices, etc.
- For example, if Andhra Pradesh is paired with Punjab, during this period, Punjabis would attempt to learn key words in Telugu, a few Telugu books would be translated into Punjabi & vice-versa, Andhraites would hold food festivals offering Punjabi dishes, Punjabis would perform Andhra folk dances, while Andhraites would perform Bhangra at staged events etc.

Bvp47

❖ Context

- The Beijing-based cybersecurity firm **Pangu Lab** released a technical report explaining how it had found the **backdoors** and linked it to “unique identifiers in the operating manuals of the NSA” that had come to light in the 2013 leak of NSA files by insiders. This followed a report from a U.S. cybersecurity firm linking an **outage in Mumbai in 2020** to **hacking attacks by China-linked groups**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Equation Group’ - Hackers linked with the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) - were found to have inserted “**covert backdoors**” - **Bvp47 (a hacker tool)**- that may have given them access to sensitive information in dozens of countries, including **India, Russia, China and Japan**.
- Among the reportedly compromised websites listed in the report were those linked to one of India’s top microbial research labs — **the Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTech)** under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research — as well as the **Indian Academy of Sciences in Bengaluru** and Websites linked to **Banaras Hindu University** . The advanced attack tool **may have existed for more than 10 years**.

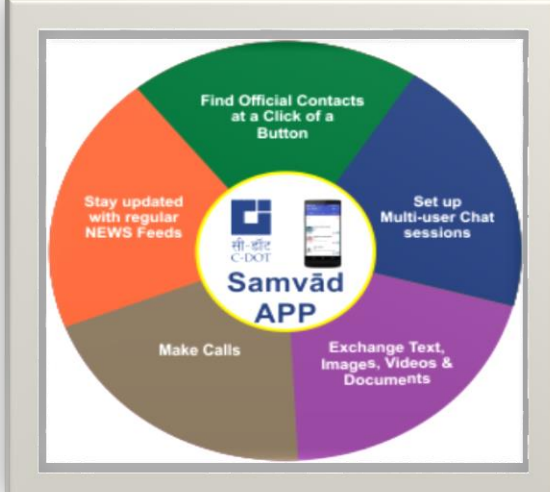
❖ What is a Backdoor?

- In the world of cybersecurity, a backdoor refers to any **method by which authorised and unauthorised users are able to get around normal security measures** and gain **high level user access (aka root access)** on a computer system, network, or software application. Once they're in, cybercriminals can use a backdoor to steal personal and financial data, install additional malware, and hijack devices.
- According to a global study by HP and University of Surrey, cyberattacks in **India rose 100% between 2017 & 2021**.

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News in Between the Lines

International Intellectual Property Index 	❖ Context ➤ The report's 10th edition released by Global innovation policy centre of US Chamber of Commerce. ❖ Key Highlights • India is ranked 43 out of 55 countries in the International IP Index. • India's overall score has increased from 38.40 percent (19.20 out of 50) in the ninth edition to 38.64 percent (19.32 out of 50) in the 10th edition. • The report welcomed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce's Review of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime report released in July 2021 terming it a comprehensive and detailed study of the strengths and weaknesses of India's national IP environment.
CDOT SAMVAD 	❖ Context ➤ Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier autonomous Telecom R&D centre under the Ministry of Communication est. in 1984, has bagged three awards at 12th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards for its indigenously designed & developed innovative Telecom solutions in various categories. ❖ Key Highlights • C-DOT SAMVAD is a Unified Platform for Secure Messaging and Calling Solution, deployed in various Government departments including few Strategic Agencies. • This solution secured first position in the category for "Innovative in Lockdown Management". It offers secured messaging, voice and video calls and a high degree of customization to cater to diverse deployment scenarios. • It has been exclusively designed to cater to various security concerns for official communication/meeting. • It can be easily hosted on a dedicated network infrastructure or a cloud based environment that remains within the administrative control of the user organisation. Additionally, It ensures data protection against cyber-attacks with its rich security and encryption capabilities. • The solution has also proved quite effective in facilitating "Work From Home" during the Covid times.
DHARMA GUARDIAN 2022 	❖ Context ➤ A joint military exercise, "EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022", between India and Japan will be conducted at Foreign Training Node, Belagavi (Belgaum, Karnataka) from 27 February 2022 to 10 March 2022. ❖ Key Highlights • Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022 is an annual training event which has been conducted in India since 2018. • Notably, in the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN with Japan is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both nations in the backdrop of current global situation. The scope of this exercise covers platoon level joint training on operations in jungle and semi urban/urban terrain.
Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL)	❖ Context ➤ The Delhi headquarters of the country's only currency and bank notes manufacturer, has been declared a "prohibited place" under the British-era Official Secrets Act (OSA) by the Ministry of Home Affair. ➤ It printed the new series of notes of denomination ₹2,000 and ₹500 in 2016. ❖ Key Highlights • It has been declared a prohibited place "to prevent the entry of unauthorized persons,".

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- The **nine production units** of the SPMCIL, where banknotes and other government papers are manufactured, are already prohibited places.
- The nine production units are four Indian Government Mints, two Currency Note Presses, two Security Printing Presses and one Security Paper Mill located in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Noida, Nashik, Dewas and Narmadapuram.

❖ About SPMCIL

- The Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) is a **government printing and minting agency**.
- It is **under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance**, Government of India. It was **incorporated in 2006** with its registered office at New Delhi.
- It is **engaged in the manufacture and production** of currency and bank notes, security paper, non-judicial stamp papers, postal stamps and stationery, passport and visa stickers, security inks, circulation and commemorative coins among others.

T+1 Settlement



❖ Context

- T+1 settlement has started in India from February 25.

❖ Key Highlights

- Currently, trades on the Indian stock exchanges are settled within two days, just like most major markets such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Japan, and South Korea.
- **China is the only market of significant size** and scale which operates on a shortened settlement cycle (T0/T+1). The **US market is also in the process of moving to T+1** in the coming months.
- Indian exchanges, however, will be moving to T+1 settlement from February 25 in a phased manner. **T stands for trade day**.

❖ About T+1 Settlement Cycle

- T+1 means that **trade-related settlements must be done within one day** of the transaction's completion. Trades on Indian stock exchanges are **currently settled in two working days** after the transaction is completed (T+2).
- For example, if you buy shares on Wednesday, they will be credited to your Demat account by the next day, which is Thursday.
 - Till now they were getting settled on Friday.
- **Benefits:**
 - **T+1 settlement system will shorten the settlement cycle** which will reduce the risk of default and will **increase the liquidity** in the market with availability of funds.

Kuki Tribe



❖ Context

- Recently, the Union Home Minister said that the government will hold peace talks with all Kuki militant groups and their issue will be resolved in the next five years.

❖ Key Highlights

- Militant outfits such as Kuki National Organization and United People's Front were demanding a **separate state for the Kuki tribe in Manipur**.
- The government has signed a **Suspension of Operation (SoO)** with them.

• About Kuki Tribe

- The Kuki people are an **ethnic group native to the Mizo Hills** (formerly Lushai) a mountainous region in the southeastern part of Mizoram.
- The Kuki constitute one of several hill tribes within **India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar**. In northeast India, they are present in all states **except Arunachal Pradesh**. The term 'Kuki' was given by the British and Bengalis of India, though the **group is descended from the Zo/Zomi**.
- Some fifty tribes of Kuki people in India are recognised as scheduled tribes, based on the dialect spoken by that particular Kuki community as well as their region of origin. The ethnic Kuki population in Manipur is about 30 percent of the **28.5 lakh population, according to the 2012 Census**.

