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AIKosh PLATFORM



- It is a national platform for **datasets, AI models and related resources**.
- It aims to **enhance access to datasets and models** from various sources to boost AI innovation, support AI solution development with shared toolkits, and showcase use cases to inspire new applications.
- It is designed to **enable greater discoverability**, access and responsible use of AI-ready resources for India's AI ecosystem.
- It also **features AI sandbox capabilities** through an integrated development environment along with tools and tutorials.
- It is an initiative **under the IndiaAI Mission**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

What is IndiaAI Mission?

- It was initially launched as a joint initiative between the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Nasscom** in 2023.
- **Aim:** To **bolster India's AI ecosystem** by making high-end computing resources accessible to startups and researchers.
- **Implementing agency:** IndiaAI an independent business division under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Pillars of the IndiaAI Mission:**
 - Common Compute Facility
 - AI Kosha (IndiaAI Datasets Platform)
 - AI Safety Institute of India (Upcoming)
 - IndiaAI Innovation Centre
 - AI Application Development Initiative
 - Future Skills Initiative
 - Startup Financing.

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PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATIYA VIKAS MISSION



- It was **launched in 2021-22** to create a **more organised system for tribal communities** to process, add value to and market Minor Forest Produce.
 - The mission seeks to move tribal communities beyond selling raw forest produce by providing them with skills, technology, infrastructure and market linkages.
- Objective:** It has objective to **strengthen the tribal forest economy** by combining traditional knowledge and locally available resources with modern processing, technology and market access.
- This mission provides support at different stages, from collection and processing to marketing.
 - **Skill development:** Tribal gatherers are trained in scientific harvesting, processing and value addition.
 - **Infrastructure:** Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) receives support for setting up facilities at beneficiaries' homes or in government or Gram Panchayat buildings.
 - **Processing equipment:** Depending on the locally available produce, centres can receive equipment such as cutting and sieving tools, decorticators, dryers and packaging equipment.
 - **Working capital:** Financial linkages are facilitated through banks, financial institutions and the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.
 - **Storage and transportation:** Support is also provided for storage and transportation on a rental basis.

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- A key component of the mission is the **Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK)** model.
 - VDVKs **bring tribal forest gatherers together through self-help groups** and help them undertake primary processing and value addition.
 - A VDVK is generally **formed by clustering around 15 self-help groups**, comprising about 300 tribal members.
 - At least **60 per cent of the members** are required to belong to **Scheduled Tribe communities**.
 - The **Van Dhan Yojana, launched in 2018**, forms the foundation of this model.

RK-251 DRUG



- It is a **smart cancer drug** designed to activate primarily in cancer cells and does not harm healthy cells.
- **Working Mechanism:**
 - When RK-251 enters a cancer cell with **high reactive oxygen species (ROS)** levels, these molecules trigger the drug's activation, releasing an **anticancer compound called NBDHEX**.
 - NBDHEX blocks target proteins that many cancer cells use to survive and resist treatment.
 - The idea is to keep RK-251 relatively inactive in normal tissues and activate its anticancer action inside cancer cells.
 - It exhibited strong activity against **aggressive triple-negative breast cancer cells**, with much less effect on healthy cells.
 - It **displayed the desired fluorescence** in the presence of reactive oxygen species.
 - The fluorescence response also provides an indication that the drug is being activated in an ROS-rich environment, supporting the underlying mechanism of the targeted approach.

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PUBLIC STREETS AND PARKING RIGHTS

As Delhi Police prepares a fresh congestion-management plan, officials have directed every traffic circle to identify at least one "problem area" marked by encroachment, roadside parking, or chronic congestion.

This crackdown on unauthorised parking raises a key legal question: does living next to a public street give a resident any special right over the parking space outside their home?

Who Owns a Public Street?

- A public street does not belong to the homeowner whose gates open onto it.
- The **Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957** (DMC Act) defines a "public street" as any street that vests in the Corporation.
- Section 298 vests all public streets in the Corporation, placing them under the control of the Commissioner, who maintains, controls, and regulates them as per bye-laws.
- No provision of the DMC Act grants an adjoining resident exclusive rights over the road stretch outside their property.
- Even prolonged use of a parking spot does not create any special entitlement.

Is Roadside Parking Legal?

- Parking on a public road is not inherently illegal, but it is closely regulated:
 - **Section 117, Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:** Empowers state governments to designate places where motor vehicles may stand, indefinitely or for specified periods.
 - **Section 122:** Prohibits leaving a vehicle in a manner causing danger, obstruction, or undue inconvenience to other road users.
 - **Section 127:** Allows towing or immobilising vehicles left in violation of parking rules.

Delhi-Specific Parking Rules

- The **Delhi Maintenance and Management of Parking Places Rules, 2019** (framed under the Motor Vehicles Act):

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- Prohibit on-street parking within **25 metres of an intersection**.
- Bar parking in green areas, parks, footpaths, bus stops, and other designated locations.
- Under **Rule 11**, Area Parking Plans must include residential areas, developed in consultation with residents or Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs).
- Mandate that **one lane in residential colony roads remain free** for emergency vehicles.
- The **Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1993** empower the District Magistrate — in consultation with the State Transport Authority, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), and local authorities — to notify parking places within their jurisdiction.
- In essence, curbside parking is governed entirely by the public authority controlling that stretch of road, not by the adjacent resident.

What the Supreme Court Has Said?

- In **M.C. Mehta v Union of India (2019)**, a Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta examined Delhi's parking crisis, framing it as a conflict between the rising number of vehicles and shrinking available land, with significant implications for urban planning.
- The Court directed the Delhi government to notify the **2019 Parking Rules**, observing that an effective parking policy helps reduce congestion, pollution, and crime.
- It also acknowledged ground realities, noting it was "**not oblivious to the hard reality**" that in many colonies, some roadside parking must be permitted since vehicle numbers exceed available indoor parking space.

Conclusion

Legally, no resident holds ownership or exclusive rights over the public road outside their home — such streets vest entirely in the municipal corporation and are governed by statutory rules under the Motor Vehicles Act and DMC Act.

While courts have recognised the practical necessity of some roadside parking in residential areas, this remains a regulated privilege, not a private right, reinforcing that urban road space is fundamentally a shared public resource.

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NAMASTE SCHEME - MECHANISED SANITATION, SAFETY AND REHABILITATION OF SANITATION WORKERS

- The Government is considering expanding the **National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)** from urban areas to rural India, while recent government data highlight the progress as well as continuing challenges in ensuring the safety, dignity and rehabilitation of sanitation workers.

NAMASTE Scheme

- The NAMASTE Scheme was launched in 2023 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The scheme seeks to replace hazardous manual cleaning practices with **mechanised sanitation solutions** while improving the safety and socioeconomic conditions of sanitation workers.
- The initial focus was on **sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs)** and was subsequently expanded to include **waste pickers**.
- The broader approach of NAMASTE is based on three interconnected objectives:
 - Eliminating hazardous manual cleaning practices.
 - Improving occupational safety and dignity.
 - Providing livelihood, skill development and social-security support.

Key Components of NAMASTE

- **Mechanisation and Capital Assistance**
 - The scheme provides financial assistance to eligible sanitation workers for procuring mechanised cleaning equipment.
 - This enables workers and sanitation enterprises to transition from hazardous manual cleaning towards safer mechanised operations.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
 - The scheme provides PPE kits to sanitation workers and waste pickers.

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- PPE is particularly important because workers may remain exposed to occupational hazards even when mechanised equipment is used.
- **Training and Skill Development**
 - NAMASTE also provides occupational safety and skill development training.
 - The objective is to equip workers with the technical and safety skills required to operate mechanised sanitation equipment and undertake sanitation-related activities safely.
- **Health and Social Security**
 - The scheme also seeks to strengthen social protection for sanitation workers through access to health insurance and other welfare measures.
 - This is important because sanitation workers face occupational risks as well as broader socioeconomic vulnerabilities.
- **Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers**
 - NAMASTE is complemented by measures for the rehabilitation of identified manual scavengers.
 - The Government has undertaken surveys to identify persons engaged in manual scavenging and subsequently provide rehabilitation assistance.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLAR AND OCEAN RESEARCH



**National
Centre for
Polar and
Ocean
Research**

- It was established as an **autonomous Research and Development Institution** on the 25th May 1998.
- It was formerly known as the **National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR)**.
- It has been at the forefront of leading India's scientific expeditions and **research programmes in the Polar Regions and the Southern Ocean**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Earth Sciences Government of India
- **Location:** Vasco da Gama, Goa

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- **Functions of National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research:**
 - It is **designated as the nodal organization** for the co-ordination and implementation of the **Indian Antarctic Programme**, and executing polar expeditions in the **Antarctic, Arctic, Southern Ocean, and Himalayas**.
 - It also works on strategically vital projects like: **Mapping of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Continental shelf surveys, and the Deep Ocean Mission**.
 - It has established and operationalised permanent Indian research stations — **Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri, and Bharati** in Antarctica, and **Himadri** in the Arctic, along with the Himalayan station Himansh.

THE VANASHAKTI VERDICT IS BALANCED AND PRAGMATIC

- **Environmental regulation** in India seeks to balance economic development with ecological sustainability.
- The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 makes prior Environmental Clearance (EC) mandatory for specified projects so that environmental risks are assessed before construction or operations begin.
- The Supreme Court's July 29, 2026 judgment in **Vanashakti vs Union of India** has clarified the legal position on projects that commenced without prior EC while leaving limited scope for addressing genuine legacy violations.

Prior Environmental Clearance as a Legal Imperative

- **Preventive Nature of Environmental Regulation**
 - The Court reaffirmed that prior EC is a mandatory legal requirement, rather than a procedural formality that can be fulfilled retrospectively.
 - Environmental assessment is intended to be preventive, enabling authorities to examine ecological risks, alternatives and mitigation measures before a project begins.

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Balancing Environmental Protection and Public Interest

- **Risks of Blanket Regularisation**
 - Unrestricted regularisation could weaken environmental law and encourage deliberate violations.
 - It could also undermine the credibility of the prior-EC regime by creating an expectation that non-compliance can eventually be resolved through payment or retrospective approval.
- **Problems with Indiscriminate Closure**
 - Conversely, automatic closure or demolition of every violating project may not always serve environmental or public interest, particularly where substantial investment has already occurred or where projects provide essential infrastructure or public utilities.
- **The Middle Path**
 - The appropriate approach is to distinguish between legitimising violations and responsibly managing legacy violations.
 - Environmental governance must combine strict enforcement with practical, scientifically informed solutions.

Conclusion

- The Vanashakti judgment establishes a middle path between blanket retrospective regularisation and indiscriminate punitive action.
 - It firmly protects the principle that environmental clearance must ordinarily precede project commencement while **recognising** the practical challenge posed by **existing legacy violations**.
 - Any future intervention must ensure that environmental violations are neither rewarded nor ignored.
 - Statutory legitimacy, environmental accountability, scientific assessment, remediation and strict compliance should form its foundation.
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