

“It takes guts and humility to admit mistakes. Admitting we're wrong is courage, not weakness.” Roy T. Bennett

INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL**COMMITTEE BY THE CENTRE TO REPORT ON HAGUE CONVENTION**

A committee set up by the Centre to prepare a report on the issue of inter-country parental child abduction has questioned one of the basic principles of the Hague Convention.

The committee has argued that the return of the child to his or her habitual residence may not necessarily be in the best interest of the child.

There is immense pressure on India from the U.S. to accede to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

The Justice Rajesh Bindal Committee was set up last year to suggest a model legislation to safeguard the interest of the child as well those of the parents when an NRI (Non-Resident Indian) marriage goes sour and one of the parents flees from one country to another with the child.

It recommended that returning a child to the place of habitual residence may result in sending the child to an inharmonious set-up as well as overlook the fact that a mother is the primary caregiver of the child.

The panel has also prepared a draft law to safeguard the interest of the children, as well as those of the parents, particularly mothers.

The proposed legislation lays various exceptions under which a child will not be returned to the country of habitual residence which are:

- the best interest of the child
- domestic violence or mental or physical cruelty
- harassment against the parent who fled with the child
- the parent claiming the return of the child was not exercising the custody rights at the time of removal

The report also requires the setting up of an Inter-Country Parental Child Removal Disputes Resolution Authority

It will be the nodal body to:

- decide on the custody of the child
- mediate between the warring parties
- order the return of the child to the country of habitual residence

Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction:

Hague Abduction Convention is a multilateral treaty developed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) that provides an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another.

The Convention was drafted to ensure the prompt return of children who have been abducted from their country of habitual residence or wrongfully retained in a contracting state not their country of habitual residence.

The Convention applies only to children under the age of 16.

The Convention requires that a court in which a Hague Convention action is filed should not consider the merits of any underlying child custody dispute, but should determine only that country in which those issues should be heard.

The Convention provides special rules for admission and consideration of evidence independent of the evidentiary standards set by any member nation.

The Convention was concluded 25 October 1980 and entered into force between the signatories on 1 December 1983.

NATIONAL**FIRST ORGANIZED CENSUS ON INDUS DOLPHINS POPULATION**

For the conservation of Indus dolphins – one of the world's rarest mammals – the Punjab government along with WWF-India is

conducting the first organized census on their population.

Indus Dolphins:

A blind species that communicates through echo like bats do, Indus dolphins are one of the seven freshwater dolphins found across the world.

They are found only in India and Pakistan. In Punjab, they are confined to only a 185 km stretch between Talwara and Harike Barrage in India's Beas River in Punjab.

The most flourishing population of the Indus dolphin is found across Pakistan where their numbers are estimated to be around 1,800 over a stretch of 1,500 km of the Indus River.

It is listed by the IUCN as endangered on its red list of threatened species. IUCN suspects the population size of the Indus river dolphins has reduced by more than 50% since 1944.

BORDER ROADS ORGANIZATION (BRO)

Border Roads Organization (BRO) is celebrating its Raising Day on 07 May 2018. It is celebrating its 58 years of glorious service to the nation.

BRO:

Functioning under the control of the **Ministry of Defence** since 2015, the BRO is engaged in road construction to provide connectivity to difficult and inaccessible regions in the border areas of the country.

It is staffed by officers and troops drawn from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Military Police and army personnel on extra regimental employment.

Engineering Service and personnel from the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) form the parent cadre of the Border Roads Organization.

Currently, the organization maintains operations in twenty-one states, one UT (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

SCIENCE AND TECH

GRAVITY RAT

It is a malware allegedly designed by Pakistani hackers.

Gravity RAT infiltrates a system in the form of an innocuous-looking email attachment, which can be in any format, including MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat or even audio and video files

The 'RAT' in its name stands for Remote Access Trojan, which is a program capable of being controlled remotely and thus difficult to trace

The hackers first identify the interests of their targets and then send emails with suitable attachments

The RAT was first detected by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), on various computers in 2017.

RAT (Remote Access Trojan):

It is designed to infiltrate computers and steal the data of users and relay the stolen data to Command and Control centers in other countries.

The latest update to the program by its developers is part of Gravity RAT's function as an Advanced Persistent Threat (APT), which, once it infiltrates a system, silently evolves and does long-term damage.

It lies hidden in the system that it takes over and keeps penetrating deeper

The **sandboxing technique** is used to isolate malware from critical programs on infected devices and provide an extra layer of security.

The problem, however, is that malware needs to be detected before it can be sandboxed, and Gravity RAT now has the ability to mask its presence.

Typically, malware activity is detected by the 'noise' it causes inside the Central Processing Unit, but Gravity RAT is able to work silently.

It can also gauge the temperature of the CPU and ascertain if the device is carrying out high-intensity activity, like a malware search, and act to evade detection.
