



Current Affairs of the Day

The new platform maps Pegasus spread

Highlights:

1. An online database on spyware Pegasus' use was recently launched by Forensic Architecture, Amnesty International and Citizen Lab to document attacks against human rights defenders.
2. Amnesty said the interactive platform — Digital Violence: How the NSO Group Enables State Terror — showed the connections between 'digital violence' of Pegasus spyware and the real-world harms faced by lawyers, activists, and other civil society figures.
3. Amnesty said the NSO Group, which makes the spyware, was a "major player in the shadowy surveillance company" and Pegasus had been used in some of the "most insidious digital attacks" on human rights activists in the world.
4. The spyware enabled an attacker to get complete access to a person's phone, it stated.
5. The investigation reveals the extent to which the digital domain we inhabit has become the new frontier of human rights violations, a site of state surveillance and intimidation that enables physical violations in real space.

Bhima Koregaon case

1. The platform, available at digitalviolence.org, lists out "targets" of the spyware in India that include activists Bela Bhatia and Anand Teltumbde.
2. In 2020, Amnesty and Citizen Lab revealed that the spyware was used on nine human rights defenders who were accused in the Bhima Koregaon case.

China fines Internet giants in anti-monopoly cases

Highlights:

1. Companies, including Internet giants Alibaba and Tencent, were fined by anti-monopoly regulators in a new move to tighten control over their fast-developing industries.



2. In 22 cases, companies were fined 5,00,000 yuan (\$75,000) each for actions, including acquiring stakes in other companies that might improperly increase their market power, the State Administration for Market Regulation announced. It said violators include six companies owned by Alibaba Group and five by Tencent Holding Ltd.
3. China's leaders worry about the dominance of its biggest Internet companies, which are expanding into finance, health services and other sensitive areas. The ruling Communist Party says anti-monopoly enforcement, especially in tech, is a priority this year.
4. In the biggest penalty to date, Alibaba was fined 18.3 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) in April on charges of suppressing competition. Other companies have been fined or reprimanded for violating competition, data protection, censorship and other rules.
5. On Sunday, ride-hailing service Didi Global Inc. was ordered to overhaul its collection and handling of customer data.