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1. U-WIN, govt's new online vaccine portal**Why in News?**

Government has undertaken countrywide rollout of U-WIN, an online vaccine management portal for childhood vaccination — similar to CoWIN used during the Covid-19 pandemic.

With digitised and individualised immunisation records since birth, the government hopes to identify and reach the small proportion of children currently outside its vaccine net. The platform is already being piloted in several states, and national implementation is imminent.

What is U-WIN? How does it work

Children, up to the age of six years, and pregnant mothers are registered on U-WIN using government ID like Aadhaar, and their mobile phone numbers. Upon registration, records of all 25 shots given to a child — and the two given to pregnant mothers — can be added.

For this, the platform generates a checkered vaccination certificate that colour codes all vaccines. After each shot is administered (and recorded on U-WIN), its date gets added to the card, which also shows the due date for the next set of vaccines.

Benefits to People

The platform also sends SMS reminders to parents before their children are due for the next dose. The digital vaccine certificate — which can be downloaded by parents using their registered mobile numbers — does away with the need to maintain the physical vaccination booklet, and allows one to get vaccinated anywhere in the country. U-WIN itself can be used to locate the nearest vaccination centre, and book an available slot.

Benefits to Health Workers

As for health workers, the platform can automatically generate a due-list of children in their respective areas. Once the database matures, U-WIN will allow the government to study micro-trends across areas.

Data Gathered

U-WIN also registers all births, the three vaccines against polio, hepatitis B, and tuberculosis administered at birth, a child's birth weight, and any physical deformities observed at birth. These data-points can be utilised by other government programmes as well — the idea is to eventually connect all digital records through ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) ID.

U-WIN will also be linked to the government's existing eVIN platform for inventory management. eVIN tracks all vaccine vials, from large central stores to each vaccination site in the country. It keeps track of the number of doses used, the number of doses that go to waste, and the number of open vials that are submitted back by the sites, and is used by sites to raise demands for vaccines.

eVIN also keeps track of, in real-time, the temperature and humidity that a vial has been subjected to using a sensor attached to each freezer.

With U-WIN running on the same principles, and using the same digital infrastructure as CoWIN, adoption should not be a major challenge.

How will U-WIN help with immunisation?

There are a number of benefits that the government foresees with U-WIN.

- * Reminders that U-WIN will furnish to parents are likely to improve compliance.

- * U-WIN will ensure portability — children who have received their first vaccines in one village/city can receive the rest of the doses elsewhere in the country. This will be especially useful to ensure that children of migrant workers do not drop out.

- * The portal might help reduce errors. The platform can act as a decision support system. For instance, if a health worker is about to administer the wrong dose, or administer the shot before time, the platform will not allow them to update it, thereby alerting them.

- * U-WIN will provide granular, individualised details of childhood immunisation across the country.

Registration at birth may also help in bringing down the number of "zero dose" children — those who have not received any vaccinations.

Relevance: GS Prelims; governance

Source: Indian Express

2. What is Governor's immunity under Article 361, set to be reviewed by Supreme Court?

Why in News?

The Supreme Court agreed to hear a plea seeking to redefine the contours of the constitutional immunity enjoyed by the Governor of a state.

Article 361 of the Constitution shields the President and Governor from criminal prosecution, and bars any judicial scrutiny of their actions. Given that the case could have significant ramifications on the role of the constitutional head of a state, the court also asked Attorney General for India R Venkataramani to weigh in.

A three-judge Bench — comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra — took up the issue after a petition was moved by a contractual

woman employee of West Bengal Raj Bhavan. She has alleged sexual harassment by Governor C V Ananda Bose. What is the immunity provided to Governors, and why is it under scrutiny?



Constitutional immunity

Article 361 states that the President, or the Governor of a state, "shall not be answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his office or for any act done or purporting to be done by him in the exercise and performance of those powers and duties", unless it is by Parliament for impeachment from office.

The provision further says "no criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued"; "no process for the arrest or imprisonment" can take place while the President, or the Governor, holds office.

The interpretation of these phrases — in Article 361(2) and 361(3) — "criminal proceedings" and "process for the arrest or imprisonment" is what is now before the SC. The court will consider whether that process covers a registration of FIR, initiation of a preliminary inquiry, or a magistrate taking cognisance of an offence, which is the technical start of a criminal case.

Present case

In the West Bengal case, the petitioner has argued that if none of the aforementioned actions can be taken against Governor Bose till he demits office, it could lead to a violation of rights, and impact the evidence in this case.

In its order, the SC said "the interpretation of clause (2) [of Article 361] arises for determination, more particularly, when criminal proceedings would be construed to have been 'instituted'."

Origins of Governor's immunity

The protection given to the President and the Governor can be traced to the Latin maxim *rex non potest peccare* or "the king can do no wrong", which is rooted in English legal traditions.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governor
Source: Indian Express

3. What is a PC emulator, and why did Apple allow it on the App Store?

Why In News?

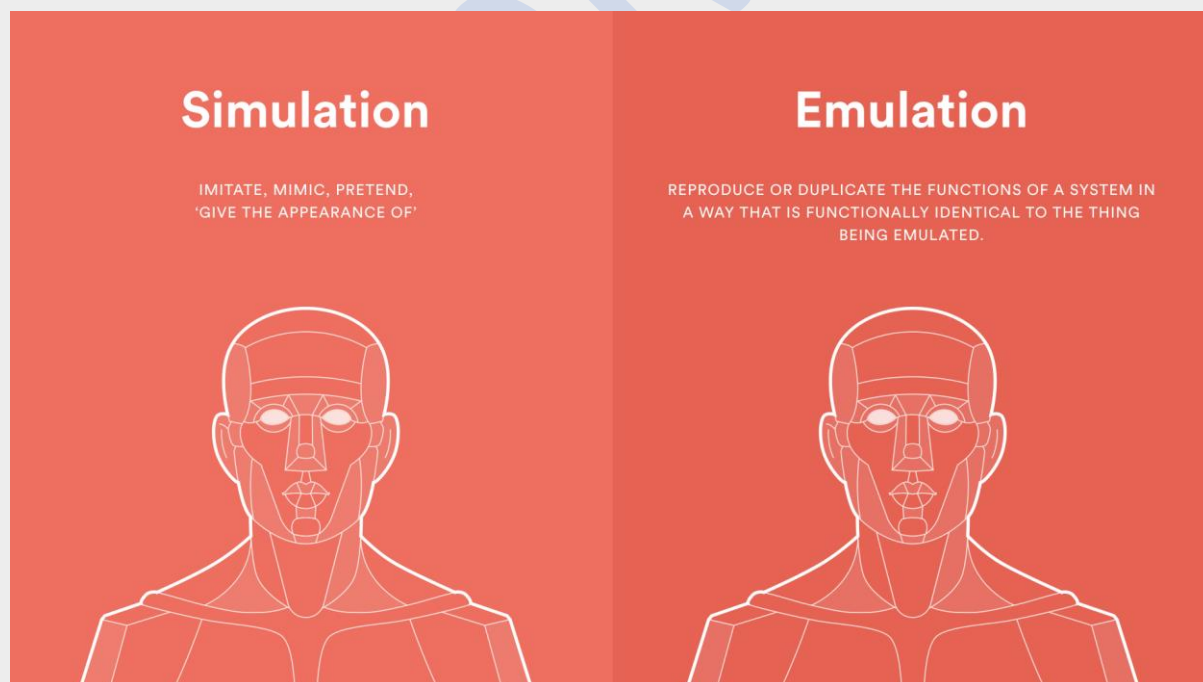
Apple approved a PC emulator for iOS for the first time this week. The move will allow users to run classic software, mostly games.

What is an emulator in PC?

An emulator, as the name suggests, is a software that allows a computer device to emulate another software. The difference in how a device operates allows it to run and use software designed for other, previously, incompatible devices.

For example, software designed for a Windows PC will have to be redesigned to run on macOS. This redesign will have to be done by developers, who may choose to not include all the functionalities available on Windows to Mac users.

An emulator can be used in this scenario to run software designed for Windows on macOS by emulating the design architecture of Windows. Emulators are commonly used to run applications designed for different operating systems, play video games from older consoles, and test software across different platforms.



Are PC emulators legal?

Using an emulator is considered legal if users own the software they are running on the emulator. However, if they use the emulator to run pirated copies of a software or use the emulator to distribute or download Read-only memory (ROM) of software they do not own, it is considered illegal.

Are emulators risky?

Unlike proprietary software, which receives timely updates to ensure smooth and secure functions, using an emulator can be a risky proposition. Especially, if the emulator is downloaded from unofficial sources. These can contain malware that can compromise the security of a system.

Additionally, depending on the software users choose to emulate, they may inadvertently end up violating licensing agreements or copyright laws. This can result in refusal by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to provide maintenance, or technical support and even lead to users being penalised for using proprietary ROMs.

Emulators can also impact the performance of a device. They are resource-intensive and may lead to decreased CPU performance, overheating, and potential damage to the battery. Additionally, poorly designed and untested emulators may lead to data corruption, especially if the emulator crashes or if there are compatibility issues with the ROMs or software being used.

Are emulators banned?

Due to their ability to help developers use different operating ecosystems for testing purposes without having to switch hardware or the underlying software, emulators are not typically banned in any country. However, the legal status of emulators depends on specific laws in each country, and on how they are used in that jurisdiction.

Are emulators legal in India?

In India, the laws do not specifically ban the use of emulators. However, their use is subject to copyright and intellectual property laws.

While it is legal to use and distribute emulators in India, users may land in trouble if they use emulators to run software such as games, operating systems, or applications without the proper licences or ownership. Distributing ROMs without proper ownership can be problematic.

Additionally, the concept of fair use applies if users own an original copy of the software and are using the emulator as a backup.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Governance

Source: Indian Express