

## 5. Global Medical Data Leakage

**Prelims Level:** Cyber Space Challenges

**Mains Level:** GS-II Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency and Accountability, e-Governance- Applications, Models, Successes, Limitations, and potential; citizens charters, Transparency & Accountability and Institutional and Other Measures.


### Why in News?

- Greenbone Sustainable Resilience, a German cyber security firm has recently published its report on Global Medical Data Leak.

### About the News:

- The report stated that medical details of over 120 million Indian patients have been leaked and made freely available on the Internet.
- The report also places Maharashtra at the top of the States affected by the global medical data leak followed by Karnataka.
- The report classifies countries in the “good”, “bad” and “ugly” categories based on the action taken by their governments in stopping it.
- India ranks second in the “ugly” category, after the U.S.
- The data leak of records includes images of CT scans, X-rays, MRIs and even pictures of the Patients.

<b>Compromised</b>		
<b>STATE</b>	<b>DATA TROVES</b>	<b>IMAGES</b>
<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>3,08,451</b>	<b>7 crore</b>
<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>1,82,865</b>	<b>1.4 crore</b>
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>1,72,885</b>	<b>34 lakh</b>
<b>Telangana</b>	<b>1,26,160</b>	<b>60 lakh</b>
<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>1,11,408</b>	<b>1.4 crore</b>



### What is the Concern?

- The leak is worrying because the affected patients can include anyone from the common working man to politicians and celebrities.

- 
- In image-driven fields like politics or entertainment, knowledge about certain ailments faced by people from these fields could deal a huge blow to their image.
  - The other concern is of fake identities being created using the details, which can be misused in any possible number of ways.

### **What is the cause for Leakage?**

- The leak was facilitated by the fact that the **Picture Archiving and Communications Systems (PACS) servers**, where these details are stored, are **not secure and linked to the public Internet** without any protection, making them easily accessible to malicious elements.

### **Way Forward:**

- PACS Servers should be secured properly and should not be connected to public internet to avoid such kind of leakages.
- Since these medical datas leakages lead to anti-social activities such as organ donation scandals, the particular medical institution should be held accountable for the datas.
- Any communication between a doctor and a patient is a privileged one. A doctor or a hospital is thus ethically, legally and morally bound to Maintain Confidentiality.

