

Supreme Court to Hear Pegasus Spyware Case

The Supreme Court will examine pleas seeking a probe into allegations of government surveillance using Pegasus spyware. The case returns after a two-year gap.



by OJAANK IAS

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Case Timeline

March 7, 2025

Supreme Court agrees to hear petitions on April 22. Justice Surya Kant directs all petitions to be listed together.

1

2

August 2022

Court reveals technical committee examined 29 mobile phones. Malware detected in some, but Pegasus presence unconfirmed.

3

October 2021

Supreme Court forms technical committee to investigate snooping allegations.



Key Petitioners



N. Ram

Senior journalist seeking fair probe into snooping allegations.



Shashi Kumar

Senior journalist petitioning for investigation into surveillance claims.



Kapil Sibal

Senior advocate representing the petitioner side in court proceedings.

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Government Response

Solicitor General's Statement

Tushar Mehta noted the case was coming up after a gap of over two years.

Cooperation Issues

Technical committee observed that the Union government had "not been cooperative" with the investigation.

Mehta's Response

"If they had asked whether you are using a particular malware, we would have said we are not using."



Technical Committee Findings

29

Phones Examined

Mobile devices were analyzed by the technical committee.

2+

Years of Investigation

The case has been ongoing since at least 2021.

3

Reports Submitted

Digital images, technical committee report, and Justice Raveendran's recommendations.



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Justice Raveendran's Recommendations

1

Balance Security and Privacy

Strike balance between cyber security and right to individual privacy against unauthorised surveillance.

2

Prosecute Illegal Surveillance

Private firms resorting to illegal surveillance ought to be prosecuted.

3

Create Special Agency

Form a special investigation agency for investigating cyber attacks.

4

Establish Complaint Mechanism

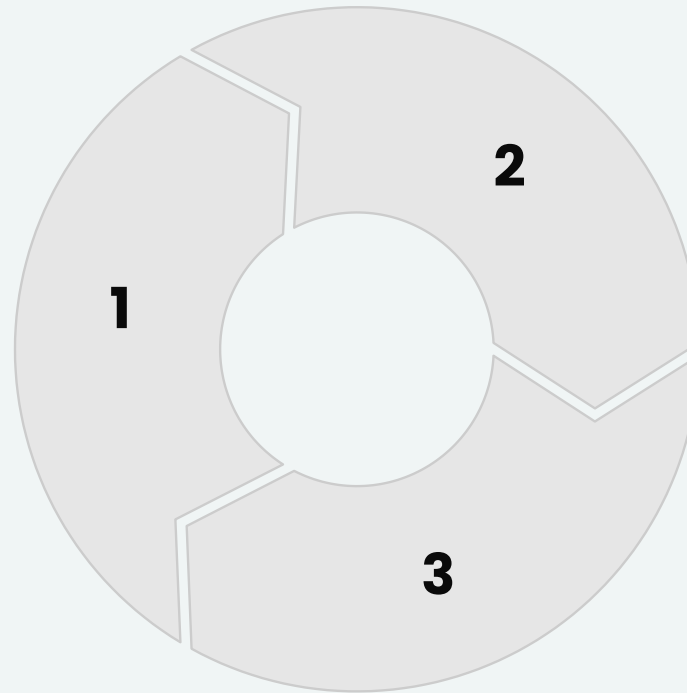
Create a system for citizens to report surveillance and malware concerns.



Core Legal Issues

Unauthorized Surveillance

Court noted "broad consensus" that unauthorized surveillance for reasons other than national security would be illegal.



Privacy Concerns

Accessing stored data from citizens' devices raises serious privacy issues.

National Security Balance

Need to balance legitimate security needs with protection of individual rights.

What is Pegasus?



Pegasus is Israeli military-grade spyware allegedly used by the Indian government to monitor politicians, activists, and journalists by infecting their electronic devices.

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