



# Kill Switch

## Why in News?

The recent 'Uber Files' reveal that the company had deployed kill switches, purportedly to destroy sensitive data that could have been legitimately accessed by police and officials.

## What is Kill Switch?

### ▪ About:

- A kill switch is a mechanism used to shut down or disable a device or program.
- In the manufacturing sector, they are deployed to **terminate operations to arrest damage in assembly lines or save a worker's life.**
- They serve a similar purpose in the digital world but instead of hardware, they are mostly software-based.
- The purpose of a kill switch is usually to prevent theft of a machine or data or shut down machinery in an emergency.

### ▪ Indian context:

- There was rape in a moving vehicle by the Uber driver, after that case, there was a suspension on uber for two months.
- Further regulatory authorities found many discrepancies around the company like,
  - VAT (value added tax) return violations.
  - Blocking access to data for Indian authorities.
  - No physical presence of operations and Indian operations are being ran from Netherlands headquarters.

[Source: IE](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/kill-switch>