

**GOVERNANCE****New IT Rules 2021**

Recently, the government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021.

These new rules broadly deal with social media and over-the-top (OTT) platforms.

These rules have been framed in exercise of powers under section 87 (2) of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and in supersession of the earlier Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011.

**Key Points**

**2018:** The Supreme Court (SC) had observed that the Government of India may frame necessary guidelines to eliminate child pornography, rape and gangrape imageries, videos and sites in content hosting platforms and other applications.

**2020:** An Ad-hoc committee of the Rajya Sabha laid its report after studying the alarming issue of pornography on social media and its effect on children and society as a whole and recommended for enabling identification of the first originator of such contents.

The government brought video streaming over-the-top (OTT) platforms under the ambit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

**New Guidelines for Social Media/Intermediaries:****Categories of Social Media Intermediaries:**

Based on the number of users, on the social media platform intermediaries have been divided in two groups:

- Social media intermediaries.
- Significant social media intermediaries.

**Due Diligence to be Followed by Intermediaries:**

- In case, due diligence is not followed by the intermediary, safe harbour provisions will not apply to them.
- The safe harbour provisions have been defined under Section 79 of the IT Act, and protect social media intermediaries by giving them immunity from legal prosecution for any content posted on their platforms.

**Grievance Redressal Mechanism is Mandatory:**

- Intermediaries shall appoint a Grievance Officer to deal with complaints and share the name and contact details of such officers.
- Grievance Officer shall acknowledge the complaint within twenty four hours and resolve it within fifteen days from its receipt.

**Ensuring Online Safety and Dignity of Users:**

- Intermediaries shall remove or disable access within 24 hours of receipt of complaints of contents that exposes the private areas of individuals, show such individuals in full or partial nudity or in sexual act or is in the nature of impersonation including morphed images etc.
- Such a complaint can be filed either by the individual or by any other person on his/her behalf.

**Additional Due Diligence for the Significant Social Media Intermediaries:**

**Appointments:** Need to appoint Chief Compliance Officer, a Nodal Contact Person and a Resident Grievance Officer, all of whom should be resident in India.

**Compliance Report:** Need to publish a monthly compliance report mentioning the details of complaints received and action taken on the complaints as well as details of contents removed proactively.

**Enabling Identity of the Originator:**

- Significant social media intermediaries providing services primarily in the nature of messaging shall enable identification of the first originator of the information.
- Required only for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, or public order,
- Or of incitement to an offence relating to the above or in relation with rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material punishable with imprisonment for a term of not less than five years.

**Removal of Unlawful Information:**

- An intermediary upon receiving actual knowledge in the form of an order by a court or being notified by the Appropriate Govt. or its agencies through authorized officer should not host or

publish any information which is prohibited under any law in relation to the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, friendly relations with foreign countries etc.

- Rules for News Publishers and OTT Platforms and Digital Media:

**For OTT:**

**Self-Classification of Content:**

- The OTT platforms, called as the publishers of online curated content in the rules, would self-classify the content into five age based categories- U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A (Adult).

**Parental Lock:**

- Platforms would be required to implement parental locks for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher, and reliable age verification mechanisms for content classified as "A".

**Display Rating:**

- Shall prominently display the classification rating specific to each content or programme together with a content descriptor informing the user about the nature of the content, and advising on viewer description (if applicable) at the beginning of every programme enabling the user to make an informed decision, prior to watching the programme.

**For Publishers of News on Digital Media :**

- They would be required to observe Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act 1995 thereby providing a level playing field between the offline (Print, TV) and digital media.

**Grievance Redressal Mechanism:**

A three-level grievance redressal mechanism has been established under the rules with different levels of self-regulation.

- Level-I: Self-regulation by the publishers;
- Level-II: Self-regulation by the self-regulating bodies of the publishers;
- Level-III: Oversight mechanism.

**Self-regulation by the Publisher:**

- Publisher shall appoint a Grievance Redressal Officer based in India who shall be responsible for the redressal of grievances received by it.
- The officer shall take decision on every grievance received by it within 15 days.

**Oversight Mechanism:**

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall formulate an oversight mechanism.

It shall publish a charter for self-regulating bodies, including Codes of Practices. It shall establish an Inter-Departmental Committee for hearing grievances.

**INDIAN ECONOMY**

**PLI Scheme for IT Hardware and Pharmaceuticals**

Recently, the Union Cabinet has cleared Production-Linked incentive (PLI) schemes for pharmaceuticals and IT hardware, including laptops, which would cost the government as much as Rs. 22,350 crore.

Earlier, the government had announced the PLI scheme for medical devices, mobile phones and specified active pharmaceutical ingredients, with a proposed outlay of Rs. 51,311 crore.

**Key Points**

**PLI Scheme:**

- It aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
- It invites foreign companies to set units in India, however, it also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units.

**IT Hardware Sector:**

- The scheme, worth Rs. 7350 crore, will offer 1-4% cash incentives on net incremental sales (over base year 2019-20) for IT products manufactured in India.
- The Target Segments include Laptops, Tablets, All-in-One PCs and Servers.

**Duration:** 4 years

**Benefits:**

- India will be well positioned as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) on account of integration with global value chains, thereby becoming a destination for IT Hardware exports.
- Employment Generation potential of over 1,80,000 (direct and indirect) over 4 years.

- Provide impetus to Domestic Value Addition for IT Hardware which is expected to rise to 20-25% by 2025.

#### **Pharmaceutical Sector:**

- The Rs. 6,940-crore PLI scheme implemented in 2020 focuses on the critical bulk drugs, whereas this scheme is likely to focus on other types of bulk drugs.
- It intends to give incentives between 2020-21 and 2028-29 (9 years).
- Drug manufacturers applying for the scheme will have to be registered in India and will be placed into one of three categories based on their Global Manufacturing Revenue (GMR).

#### **Categories of Drugs Targeted by the Scheme:**

##### **First Category:**

- It includes biopharmaceuticals, complex generics, patented and orphan drugs, often expensive for which India relies a lot on multinational drug makers.

##### **Second Category:**

- It comprises Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), Key Starting Materials (KSMs) and Drug Intermediates (DIs).

##### **Third Category:**

- It includes other critical repurposed, auto-immune, anti-cancer, anti-diabetic, anti-retroviral, anti-infective and cardiovascular drugs as well as in-vitro diagnostic devices and drugs not manufactured in India.

#### **Incentives:**

##### **For First and Second Category:**

- 10% of incremental sales value for the first four year of the scheme, followed by 8% for the fifth year and 6% for the sixth year of production under the scheme.

##### **For Third Category:**

- 5% of incremental sales value for the first four years, 4% for the fifth year and 3% for the sixth year.

#### **Benefits of PLI in Pharmaceuticals:**

##### **Reduced Dependency on China:**

- India's capabilities in APIs have reduced over the years, mostly due to cheaper alternatives from China.
- The pharmaceutical industry here is currently dependent on the bordering country for nearly 70% of the bulk drugs it imports.

##### **Enhance Exports:**

The Indian pharmaceutical industry is the third-largest globally in terms of the volume term of production and is worth USD 40 billion in value.

The country contributes 3.5% of total drugs and medicines exported globally.

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

#### **Airline Mapping of Ocean Floor**

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is planning to conduct airline mapping of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep to get a better picture of the ocean floor. Lakshadweep Islands are located in the Arabian Sea. These are coral islands located off the coast of Kerala. The Andaman and the Nicobar Islands lie to the southeast of the Indian mainland in the Bay of Bengal.

##### **Key Points**

- INCOIS is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- It is located in Hyderabad & was established in 1999.
- It is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO), New Delhi.
- The ESSO operates as an executive arm of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for its policies and programmes.
- **Mandate of INCOIS:** To provide the best possible ocean information and advisory services to society, industry, government agencies and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvement through systematic and focused research.

##### **Recent Initiative:**

- The INCOIS is planning to take the help of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to conduct 'bathymetric' study of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

- **NRSC:** It is one of the primary centres of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Department of Space (DOS).

#### **Bathymetry:**

- It is the study of the "beds" or "floors" of water bodies, including the ocean, rivers, streams, and lakes.
- The term "bathymetry" originally referred to the ocean's depth relative to sea level, although it has come to mean "submarine topography," or the depths and shapes of underwater terrain.
- NRSC has already done a similar high resolution topographic Airborne Laser Terrain Mapping (ALTM) for entire coastal areas of the country.
- ALTM is an active remote sensing technology that employs Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) to measure topography at high spatial resolution over large areas.
- ALTM pulses a laser to measure the range between an airborne platform and the Earth's surface at many thousands of times per second.
- Using a rotating mirror or other scanning mechanism inside the laser transmitter, the laser pulses can be made to sweep through an angle, tracing out a line or other patterns on the reflecting surface.
- The scientists are in the process of integrating the data for a 3D multi-hazard mapping of both the east and west coastline for a more precise picture of the ocean floor.

#### **Significance:**

- Such a study has become imperative in view of the recent tsunamis warning.
- Recently, at Indonesian coasts, where more than the quake related high waves, damage was due to landslides that had under the sea beds causing sudden wave surge leading to much damage without giving sufficient time to alert people.

#### **Similar Global Initiative:**

Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO).

The project aims to bring together all available bathymetric data to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all.

### **INDIAN HISTORY**

#### **Mannathu Padmanabhan**

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tributes to Mannathu Padmanabhan on his Punya Tithi (Death Anniversary).

#### **Key Points**

- He was born on 2nd January 1878 in Perunna, Kottayam district of Kerala.
- He was an Indian social reformer and freedom fighter from the south-western state of Kerala.
- Sardar K M Panicker called him 'Madan Mohan Malaviya of Kerala.
- He began his career as a teacher in 1893 in a Government primary school.
- In 1905 he changed his profession and started practicing law, in the Magistrates Courts.

#### **Political and Social Contribution:**

- He took part in the Vaikom (1924) and Guruvayoor (1931) temple-entry Satyagrahas and the anti-untouchability agitations.
- Vaikom Satyagraha was a movement in Travancore (modern-day Kerala) for temple entry of the depressed classes. It took place near the Shiva Temple at Vaikom, Kottayam district, Kerala during 1924-25. Vaikom was at that time a part of the princely state of Travancore.
- Guruvayur Satyagraha was a Satyagraha (non-violent protest) to allow entry for untouchables into the Guruvayur Temple in present Thrissur district, which was then part of Ponnani Taluk of Malabar district, now part of Kerala..
- He led the Nairs to demand temple entry for all castes and to put an end to untouchability.
- In 1914 he established the Nair Service Society.
- He became a member of the Indian National Congress in 1946 and took part in the agitation against Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer's administration in Travancore.
- He was arrested for the Indian Freedom Movement on 14 June 1947.
- In 1949, Padmanabhan became a member of the Travancore Legislative Assembly.
- In 1964 he was instrumental in the formation of Kerala Congress, the first regional party in India.



### **Awards & Recognition:**

- He received Padma Bhushan in 1966.
- He was honoured with the title Bharata Kesari by the President of India.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **FATF Retains Pakistan In Grey List**

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided to retain Pakistan on the “greylist” till the next review of its performance on its recommendations during the June Plenary session.

#### **Key Points**

- During the October-2020 Plenary, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Pakistan was given an extension for full compliance with the 27-point action plan till February 2021.
- It had then not fully complied with 6 of the 27 directives.
- The FATF had issued the 27-point action plan after placing Pakistan on the ‘Grey List’ in June 2018. The action plan pertains to curbing money laundering and terror financing.

#### **About:**

- FATF acknowledged Pakistan’s significant progress in combating terrorism, however it was still to fully comply with three of the 27-point action plan.
- The three points pertain to effective steps in terms of financial sanctions and penalties against the terror funding infrastructure and the entities involved.
- After assessing the measures taken during the June 2021 session, the FATF would verify the implementation and test the sustainability of reforms undertaken by Pakistan, to review its inclusion or exclusion on the grey list.

#### **Significance:**

In Pakistan's case, the FATF has taken cognisance of the inaction against several banned organisations involved in raising funds for terror activities and those linked to global terrorists like Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar and Lashkar-e-Taiba’s Hafiz Saeed and its operations chief Zaki-Ur Rahman Lakhvi.

On several occasions, India has also raised the involvement of elements within Pakistan in a number of terror cases, including the 26/11 Mumbai and Pulwama attacks.

Perpetual containment of Pakistan on the grey list of FATF would further pressurise Pakistan to take adequate measures to prevent such terrorist attacks on India from its soil.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY**

### **State of Environment Report 2021: CSE**

Recently, the State of Environment Report, 2021 was released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

CSE is a public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi. It researches into, lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable.

#### **Key Points**

##### **Pandemic Generation:**

- India is all set to usher in a ‘pandemic generation’, with 375 million children (from newborns to 14-year-olds) likely to suffer long-lasting impacts, ranging from being underweight, stunting (low height-for-age) and increased child mortality, to losses in education and work productivity.

##### **Increased School Dropouts:**

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, over 500 million children were forced out of school globally and India accounted for more than half of them.

##### **Rise in Extreme Poverty:**

- Covid-19 has made the world’s poor poorer. Over 115 million additional people might get pushed into extreme poverty by the pandemic and most of them live in South Asia.

##### **Pollution Levels Worsened:**

- India’s air, water and land have become more polluted between 2009 and 2018.
- Of 88 major industrial clusters in the country, according to the Central Pollution Control Board, 35 showed overall environmental degradation, 33 pointed to worsening air quality, 45 had more polluted water and in 17, land pollution became worse.
- Tarapur in Maharashtra emerged as the most polluted cluster.

##### **Regarding Sustainable Development Rankings:**

India ranked 117 among 192 nations in terms of sustainable development and was now behind all South Asian nations except Pakistan.

**States' Performance In Sustainable Development Goals:**

**Best Performing States:** Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

**Worst Performers:** Bihar, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh.

**Other Similar Reports:**

UN Report on the Impact of Covid-19 on Children.

Report on Winter Pollution: CSE.

**IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**

**Vijayanagar King Krishnadevaraya**

The first-ever epigraphical reference (an inscription) to the date of death of Vijayanagar king Krishnadevaraya has been discovered at Honnenahalli in Tumakuru district, Karnataka.

Normally, the death of kings was not recorded in the inscriptions and this was one of those rare records.

**Key Points**

**Findings:**

- As per the inscription, Krishnadevaraya, one of the greatest emperors of India who ruled from the South, died on 17th October, 1529 (Sunday).
- Incidentally, this day was marked by a lunar eclipse.
- The inscription is engraved on a slab kept on the north side of the Gopalakrishna temple at Honnenahalli in Tumakuru district.
- The inscription also registers the gift of village Honnenahalli in Tumakuru for conducting worship to the god Veeraprasanna Hanumantha of Tumakuru.
- The inscription is written in Kannada.

**Krishnadevaraya:**

- He was the ruler of the Tuluva dynasty of Vijayanagar empire (1509-29 AD).
- His rule was characterised by expansion and consolidation.
- He is credited with building some fine temples and adding impressive gopurams to many important south Indian temples.
- He also founded a suburban township near Vijayanagar called Nagalapuram after his mother.
- He composed a work on statecraft in Telugu known as the Amuktamalyada.

**Vijayanagara Empire:**

- Vijayanagara or "city of victory" was the name of both a city and an empire.
- The empire was founded in the fourteenth century (1336 AD) by Harihara and Bukka of the Sangama dynasty.
- They made Hampi the capital city. In 1986, Hampi was declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.
- It stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the peninsula.

**Vijayanagar Empire was ruled by four important dynasties and they are:**

- Sangama
- Saluva
- Tuluva
- Aravidu

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement. (UPSC GS-2 Mains 2020).**

**Ans:**

In order to transform India's declining education system, the government of India has launched the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP). Apart from fundamental literacy and numeracy and overall cognitive development, the NEP envisions imparting 21st-century skills, well-rounded character building, critical thinking, holistic, inquiry-based, discovery-based, discussion-based and analysis-based hands-on learning.

Implementing SDG-4: SDG -4 envisages ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all. The NEP through the following provisions strives to achieve these targets.

### Significance of NEP

- Recognizing Importance of Formative years: In adopting a 5+3+3+4 model for school education starting at age 3, the policy recognizes the primacy of the formative years from ages 3 to 8 in shaping the child's future.
- Multi-Disciplinary Approach: Another key aspect of school education in the new policy is the breaking of the strict division of arts, commerce, and science streams in high school.
- Education and Skills Integration: NEP introduces vocational courses with an internship. This may nudge the vulnerable sections of society to send their children to school.
- Making Education More Inclusive: The NEP proposes the extension of the Right to Education (RTE) to all children up to the age of 18.
- Effective Regulation: The policy also seeks to establish a super-regulator for education which will be responsible for standards-setting, funding, accreditation and regulation of higher education in India.
- Allowing Foreign Universities: The document states universities from among the top 100 in the world will be able to set up campuses in India.

However, on many issues, the NEP falls short in identifying what exactly ails India's Education system.

- Marks Dominated Education System: Until marks or grades dominate the education system, it would be challenging to bring transformation as envisaged by NEP.
- Persistent Inequity & Inequality: The NEP falls short in addressing the two main problems that plague our society and education system — inequity and inequality.
- Knowledge-Jobs Mismatch: There is a persistent mismatch between the knowledge & skills imparted and the jobs available. This has been one of the main challenges that have affected the Indian education system since Independence.
- Federal Angle: Though education is a concurrent subject in India's federal structure, yet the NEP approach is suggestive of over-centralization.

### Conclusion

Though the NEP 2020 seeks to bring a holistic change in the education system of India, its success depends on the will and way in which it will be implemented.

### DAILY QUIZ

1. Consider the following statements about the Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights:

1. The rights are provided under the National Forest Policy, 1988.
2. These rights can be claimed only over those forests that do not come under any protected areas.
3. The Gram Sabha is responsible for determining the forest rights to be given to forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) **3 only**
- d) 1, 2 and 3

2. With reference to Buddhism, consider the following statements:

1. In Varad Mudra the gesture of hand shows dispensing of boons.
2. The Vajrayana phase is also known as tantric Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Consider the following statements about the empire of Vijayanagara:

1. The empire was established by Harihara and Bukka of the Tuluva dynasty.
2. The capital of Vijayanagar is a UNESCO world heritage site.
3. The empire was stretched along river Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- a) **1 only**
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

4. With reference to the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
2. It is located in Hyderabad.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The President's Rule is imposed on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers.
2. A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within six months from the date of its issue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) **1 only**
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2



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