

SOCIAL ISSUES

National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights Guidelines on OTT Platform

CONTEXT: Recently, new rules have been issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, to protect the rights of children working on the OTT platforms.

❖ **Guidelines**

- The “Guidelines to Regulate Child Participation in the Entertainment Industry” were issued by NCPCR in 2011.
- The recent draft increases the scope of the guidelines to cover social media and OTT platforms for the first time. The scope of the new guidelines will cover:
 - TV programmes , Reality shows, Serials, Advertising
 - News and informative media,
 - Movies,
 - Content on OTT platforms,
 - Content on social media,
 - Performing arts,
 - And any other kind of involvement of children in commercial entertainment activities.

❖ **Child protection:**

• **Health:**

- A minor, especially below the age of six years, shall not be exposed to harmful **lighting, irritating or contaminated cosmetics**.
- Children cannot be shown imbibing alcohol, smoking or using any other substance or shown to be indulging in any sort of antisocial activity and delinquent behaviour.
- No child can be engaged in any situation involving nudity.

• **Mental Health:**

- Consideration has to be given to the child’s age, maturity, emotional or psychological development and sensitivity.
- A child cannot be exposed to ridicule, insult or discouragement, harsh comments or any behaviour that could affect his/her emotional health.

• **Producer’s responsibility:**

- The producer will now need to obtain the permission of the **District Magistrate** for the participation of a child in his/her show.
- Producers will also have to **run a disclaimer** saying measures were taken to ensure there has been no abuse, neglect or exploitation of children during the entire process of the shooting.
- The producer also needs to ensure the **child’s education under the RTE Act**.

• **Role of guardian:**

- **At least one parent or legal guardian** or a known person has to be present during a shoot.
- For infants, a **registered nurse** needs to be present along with the parent or legal guardian.
- At least 20 per cent of the income earned by the child from the production or event shall be directly **deposited in a fixed deposit account in a nationalised bank** in the name of the child which may be credited to the child on attaining majority.

➤ **Content created by the child or his family/guardian:**

- It shall be treated as children working in a family enterprise as provided under the **Child Labour and Adolescent Labour Act, 1986**.

- **Penalty:** The draft also included stringent penal provisions for violating the guidelines, including **imprisonment**.

❖ **Significance**

• **Need of the guidelines:**

- Children are now being used in videos across social media and in the content on OTT platforms.
- It had not been covered by the existing guidelines and this increasing influence and scope of the internet needed to be covered.
- Parents, who are using children to make money, have to be held accountable.

• **Recognition of other Acts**

- Eg., Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Child Labour Amendment Act, 2016, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, etc.,
- The provisions of these Acts have now been included in the guidelines.
- **Risk of exploitation:**
- In the absence of any monitoring mechanism, the children in the industry are at grave risk of exploitation because they lack the legal right to the earnings they generate, safe working conditions and adequate protections via labour laws, etc.
- **Need of protection:**
- Participating in an adult-oriented industry, children are often exposed to **unsuitable, anxiety-inducing**, and at times, **dangerous operational hazards and situations**.
- Children are also susceptible to a plethora of other crimes against children such as **sexual exploitation, child trafficking, bonded labour**, etc
- ❖ **Protection of Children in India**
- **Education: Article 21 A (Right to Education):** The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6 to 14 years in such manner as the State, by law, may determine.
- **Child Rights: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):**
- It was set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, an Act of Parliament (December 2005).
- It comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.
- **Child Labour:**
- **Article 23:** Any type of forced labour is prohibited.
- **Article 24:** It states that a child under 14 years cannot be employed to perform any hazardous work in any factory or mine.
- **The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (CALPRA):**
- CALPRA states that no child shall be allowed to work for more than five hours in a day, and for not more than three hours without rest.
- **Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL):** It is an electronic platform that aims at involving the Centre, State, District, Governments, civil society and the general public in achieving the target of a child labour-free society.
- **Sexual offence against Children:**
- **Article 39:** It states that "the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused".
- **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act):** It was established to protect children against offences like sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and pornography.

PRELIMS

1. Dutch Disease

- Dutch Disease in economics refers to a phenomenon wherein a country witnesses uneven growth across sectors due to the discovery of natural resources, especially large oil reserves.
- According to the concept, when a country discovers natural resources and starts exporting them to the rest of the world, it causes the exchange rate of the currency to appreciate significantly and this, in turn, discourages the exports from other sectors while encouraging the import of cheaper alternatives.
- It exhibits the following two chief economic effects:
 - It decreases the price competitiveness of exports of the affected country's manufactured goods.
 - It increases imports.

- In long run these factors can contribute to unemployment, as manufacturing jobs move to lower-cost countries. Meanwhile, non-resource-based industries suffer due to the increased wealth generated by resource-based industries.
- **Origin:**
 - While the idea was first proposed by economists **Peter Neary and Max Corden in 1982**, the term ‘Dutch disease’ was first coined by The Economist in 1977 to describe the decline of the manufacturing industry in the Netherlands.
 - In the **1960s**, the Netherlands discovered **gas reserves in the North Sea**.
 - The subsequent export of oil and the appreciation of the Dutch currency made **Dutch exports of all non-oil products less competitive** on the world market.
 - Unemployment rose from 1.1% to 5.1% and capital investment in the country dropped.
 - Following this, over the years, the country witnessed a **downfall in the industrial sector**.
- **How to tackle the problem**
 - **Role of fiscal policy:** Rising income due to the export of natural resources should be adjusted with cautious spending on public welfare. There should be an efficient use of revenues coming from taxation to compensate for the adverse effects of the Dutch disease.
 - **Promoting spending policies:** Public spending such as concentrating on imports of tradable rather than non-traceable would help slow the impact of the Dutch disease. Private spending in order to improve the productivity of private firms would also help reduce the impact.
 - **Monetary policy:** With the discovery of natural resources, the country sees a huge inflow of money, especially foreign currency. The export of natural resources tends to affect the equilibrium in the money and exchange rate markets. The Dutch disease can be prevented if the central bank raises the banking system reserve’s requirement, which decreases domestic credit.

2. Who are the G7, whose Summit in Germany India has been invited to?

❖ **Group of 7**

- The G7 is an informal forum of leading industrialised nations, which include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Representatives of the European Union are always present at the annual meeting of the heads of state and government of the G7. Germany holds the presidency of the G7 in 2022.
- Germany has invited India, along with Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal, and South Africa to the 2022 Summit as partner countries.
- A number of international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank, are also participating in the Summit.

❖ **G6, G8, G7**

- The first “World Economic Summit”, which later became the G7, was launched in 1975 by former French President Valéry Giscard d’Estaing and then Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The heads of state and government of Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and the US — a Group of Six — met for a fireside chat at Rambouillet Castle in France.
- The participants exchanged ideas on the economic problems of the 1970s — the first oil crisis and the collapse of the system of fixed exchange rates (Bretton Woods) — and agreed on international economic policy and initial measures to fight the global downturn.
- In 1976, Canada was added to the group, and the first G7 met in Puerto Rico. The first talks between the then European Community and the G7 took place in London in 1977, and since the Ottawa Summit of 1981, the European Community (now European Union) has been part of all working sessions.
- In the 1980s, the interest of the G7 expanded to include foreign and security policy issues. Then Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev was invited to talks on the sidelines of the London Summit in 1991. In 1998, the Group of Eight was constituted as Russia became a member. Russia was thrown out of the group after its violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity in 2014.

- Germany has the G7 presidency for the seventh time this year. Japan will be president in 2023.

❖ **G7 numbers**

- As of 2022, G7 countries make up 10% of the world's population, 31% of global GDP, and 21% of global carbon dioxide emissions. China and India, the two most populous countries with among the largest GDP figures in the world, are not part of the grouping.
- In all G7 countries, annual public sector expenditure exceeded revenue in 2021. Most G7 countries also had a high level of gross debt, especially Japan (263% of GDP), Italy (151%) and the US (133%).
- The G7 countries are important players in global trade. The US and Germany in particular are major export nations. Both sold goods worth well over a trillion US dollars abroad in 2021.

3. VL-SRSAM

- The Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile was successfully flight-tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & Indian Navy.
- The Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) is an indigenously developed **ship-borne weapon system**.
- The VL-SRSAM was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It has been designed to **strike at the high-speed airborne targets** at the range of 40 km to 50 km and at an altitude of around 15 km.
- The VL-SRSAM is an indigenous upgrade to the 2-decade-old Israeli Barak 1 surface-to-air missile system on board Indian warships.
- Its design is based on Astra missile which is a Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air missile.
- Two key features of the VL-SRSAM are
 - Cruciform wings
 - Thrust vectoring.
- VL-SRSAM is a **canisterised system**, which means it is stored and operated from specially designed compartments.
- In the canister, the inside environment is controlled, thus making its transport and storage easier and improving the shelf life of weapons.
- During mid-course flight, the VL-SRSAM missile uses a fibre-optic, gyroscope-based, inertial guidance mechanism.
- With lock-on-before-launch (LOBL) and lock on after launch (LOAL) capability; the missile receives mid-course update via datalink. Then, in the terminal phase, the missile switches to active radar homing.
- The first line of defence is provided by the Indo-Israeli Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles (MRSAMs), which are capable of shooting down hostile aerial threats at ranges out to 70 km.
- If the MRSAM fails to destroy the incoming threat at long ranges, the warship launches its VL-SRSAMs at shorter ranges of 25-30 km.

ANSWER WRITING

- 1. Discuss the impact of the following on Indian society: (250 words) (a) Sanskritisation (b) Westernisation (c) Modernisation**

❖ **Sanskritization**

Sanskritization is a process through which lower castes try to achieve upward social mobility by emulating the customs and rituals of the upper castes. It is a cultural process, but changes in social status and occupations as a consequence of the upward mobility brought about by Sanskritization, also makes it a structural process.

- It accepts the ways of the 'upper caste' as superior and that of the 'lower caste' as inferior. Therefore, the desire to imitate the 'upper caste' is seen as natural and desirable.
- It seems to justify a model that rests on inequality and exclusion. It appears to suggest that to believe in the concept of pollution and purity of groups of people is justifiable.

- It results in the adoption of upper caste rites and rituals which leads to the practice of secluding girls and women, adopting dowry practices instead of bride-price and practicing caste discrimination against other groups, etc.
- The effect of such a trend is that the key characteristics of Dalit culture and society are eroded. For example, the very worth of labour which 'lower castes' do is degraded and rendered 'shameful'.

❖ **Westernization**

The contact with the West, particularly with England set in motion another process of transformation in India, known as Westernization. It is characterized by Western patterns of administration, legal system and education through the medium of the English language.

- Under the impact of the Western way of life, a sizeable section of educated and urbanized Indians adopted the Western style of dress, food, drink, speech and manner.
- The emulation of the West inculcated the values of Western democracy, Industrialization and Capitalism.
- There are cultural as well as structural aspects of Westernization. It brought about structural changes by the growth of modern occupations related to modern education, economy and industry.

❖ **Modernization**

Modernization is a process by which modern scientific knowledge is introduced in the society with the ultimate purpose of achieving a better and more satisfactory life in the broadest sense of the term accepted by the society concerned.

- It has introduced structural changes in social institutions like marriage, family, caste etc. The concept of joint families is rapidly decreasing, everyone wants to remain aloof from others.
- There are some eliminative changes like the disappearance of cultural traits, behavioural patterns, values etc.
- Emergence of new forms because of the synthesis of old and new elements. For example, nuclear family in structure but functioning as joint.
- Modernity assumes that local ties and parochial perspectives give way to universal commitments and cosmopolitan attitudes.
- The truths of utility, calculation, and science take precedence over those of the emotions, the sacred, and the non-rational.

MCQs

1. Consider the following statements with regards to Open Network For Digital Commerce (ONDC)

1. It is a not-for-profit organisation
2. Currently it is implemented pan India basis in all the capital cities.
3. The ONDC will standardise operations like cataloguing, inventory management, order management and order fulfilment, which will make it simpler and easier for small businesses to be discoverable over network and conduct business.

Choose the correct statement/s using the codes given below

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) **1 and 3 only**
- d) All of the above

2. Consider the following statements

1. Cardamom crop loss.
2. Fall in Cashew nut yield.
3. Spike in pest population

Which of the above can be a possible impact of climate change?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) **All of the above**

3. Which of the following state will be the first State to have a region-specific red list of birds?
 - a) **Kerala**
 - b) Arunachal Pradesh
 - c) Odisha
 - d) Mizoram
4. Consider the following statements
 1. All the G-8 countries are members of G-20
 2. All the G-7 countries are members of G-20
 3. Russia is the only common country between G-8 and G-20
 Choose the correct statement/s using the codes given below
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) **All of the above**
5. Typhoid fever is caused by which of the following?
 - a) Virus
 - b) **Bacteria**
 - c) Protozoa
 - d) None of the above
6. Recently UN announced the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity will be held in which of the following country?
 - a) **Canada**
 - b) USA
 - c) South Africa
 - d) Finland
7. With reference to GST compensation cess consider the following statements
 1. The compensation cess, levied on luxury and demerit goods
 2. Recently GST council extended the period of GST compensation cess collection till the year 2025.
 Which of the above statement is not correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) **2 only**
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
8. Shantilal Shah Committee recently seen in news is related to which of the following
 - a) Sexual harassment of women in workplace
 - b) Triple talaq
 - c) **Legalisation of abortion**
 - d) Working Hour for women in various sectors
9. Which of the following Articles of Indian constitution deal with children protection in the country
 - a) Article 21(A)
 - b) Article 23 and 24
 - c) Article 39
 - d) **All of the above**
10. With reference to VL-SRSAM consider the following statements
 1. It is a Surface to surface Missile developed by DRDO
 2. It is an indigenously developed ship-borne weapon system.
 3. VL-SRSAM missile uses a fibre-optic, gyroscope-based, inertial guidance mechanism.
 Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) **2 and 3 only**
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) All of the above