

1. The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)

Topic: Governance

In News: To ensure that consumers who deal in virtual digital assets are fully aware of the risks and are not misled, ads must comply with the ASCI guidelines.

More on the Topic:

- The guidelines which were introduced in late February this year came into effect in April.
- VDA advertisers and brands should prominently carry a disclaimer saying, “Crypto products and NFTs are unregulated and can be highly risky. There may be no regulatory recourse for any loss from such transactions.”
- In case of non-compliance, ASCI can recommend corrections in the ads and for companies which fall under the Cable Act, the ad regulator can prohibit the broadcast of ads by such firms.
- ASCI doesn't have legal powers for complaint redressal or removal of ads for mediums like digital.
- According to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting it will ensure no advertisement violating the ASCI Code shall be carried in the cable service.
- ASCI can not only suggest changes in an ad but can also forward the same to an Authorising Officer (AO) under the Cable Television Network Act, 1995 (Cable Act), if the advertiser doesn't comply with ASCI's recommendations.
- This gives legal backing to the ASCI decisions.



Virtual Digital Assets:

- Virtual Digital Assets are **subsets of all digital assets transacted on a blockchain**, such as non-fungible tokens (NFTs), cryptos and other virtual assets.
- Virtual currencies are a form of digital currency.
- They are issued by private parties, such as a group of developers or organizations, and are intended only for online use—they do not have a physical incarnation like paper money.

The Advertising Standards Council of India:

- The Advertising Standards Council of India is a **voluntary self-regulatory organization** of the advertising industry in India.
- The aim of ASCI is **to maintain and enhance the public's confidence in advertising**.
- Their mandate is that all advertising material must be truthful, legal and honest, decent and not objectify women, safe for consumers - especially children and last but not the least, fair to their competitors.

Source: Indian Express

2.OBC quota in local body polls

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Supreme Court has allowed local body elections in Madhya Pradesh with reservation for OBCs on the basis of a second report filed by the state backward classes commission.



More on the Topic:

- This is the first time that a state government has managed to clear the triple test formula mandated by the apex court in the context of providing reservation for OBCs in local body polls.
- Earlier, the SC while hearing a plea by the Maharashtra government decided to recall its December 2021 order, which stayed 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local body elections.

What was the “triple test” prescribed by the SC, and under what circumstances?

- The triple conditions to empirically establish the need for OBC quota were
- 1) a state commission must “conduct contemporaneous rigorous empirical inquiry into the nature and implications of the backwardness qua local bodies, within the state”;
- 2) specify the proportion of reservation required to be provisioned local body wise in light of recommendations of the commission; and
- 3) total “reservation (must) not exceed the aggregate of 50% of the seats”.

About Reservation in Local Body polls:

- The 73rd and 74th amendments provided compulsory reservation for SCs, STs, and women in Panchayats and Municipalities.
- However, reservation for backward classes is left to the discretion of state governments.

Source: Indian Express

3.The child online safety toolkit

Topic: Science and Technology

In News: The child online safety toolkit was launched recently by Britain-based NGO 5Rights that works to ensure that children’s rights and needs are prioritised in the digital world.



More on the Topic:

- The toolkit is conceived as a 'roadmap for policymakers and practitioners building a digital world that supports children and enables them to flourish, online and beyond.'
- It intends to guide policies to make the online world free from harm for children.
- It builds on existing international agreements and best practices, developed in consultation with international experts from a range of backgrounds.
- It has accessible worksheets and resources both online and in print to help make child online safety a reality.
- The following important international agreements and frameworks would be implemented if the tool kit is utilised effectively.
- **The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** – It has a clause on digital rights of the children.
- **WeProtect Global Alliance** which is a global movement of more than 200 governments, private sector companies and civil society organisations working together to transform the global response to child sexual exploitation and abuse online.
- The International Telecommunication Union’s Guidelines on Child Online Protection.
- **UNICEF’s Draft Policy Guidance on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Children.**

Significance of the Toolkit:

- There are contents online that is obscene, vulgar, immoral and of sexual nature. Kids need to be protected from seeing them as it’ll be a bad influence on them.
- Child sexual exploitation and abuse are also major concerns, not only offline but also online.
- It can be dangerous if a child ends up clicking on the link intended for phishing or malware. It is a way in which criminals get sensitive information like username, password, phone number, address etc.

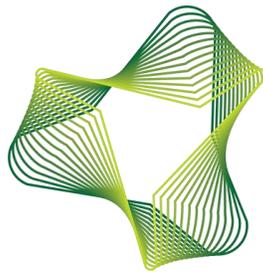
- Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers and tablets. Kids can end up interacting with a cyberbully through chats and emails.

Source: PIB

4. New Development Bank

Topic: Economy

In News: The New Development Bank (NDB), will open its first regional office in India at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).



New Development Bank

More on the Topic:

- It is intended to cater to infrastructure and sustainable development needs of the country.
- The India office will focus on expanding its footprint in the country with planning and implementing new projects as well as monitoring them.
- The NDB has so far approved 21 Indian projects, involving funding of \$7.1 billion.

About New Development Bank:

- The NDB was established by Brics countries -- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa and was formally opened in July 2015. Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Uruguay have since joined the bank.
- Projects within the scope of the NDB include transport, water and sanitation, clean energy, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure and urban development.

Source: Business Standard

5. Pangong Tso Lake

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: India is closely monitoring the construction of a bridge by China on the Pangong Tso (lake) in eastern Ladakh.

More on the Topic:

- China is constructing a second bridge in an area held by it around the strategically key Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh and it could help the Chinese military to quickly mobilise its troops in the region.
- The official statement by Ministry of External Affairs said that both the bridges that are being constructed by China are in the area that has been illegally occupied by China since 1960s.

About Pangong Tso Lake:

- Pangong Lake is an endorheic lake spanning eastern Ladakh and West Tibet.
- It is divided into **five sublakes**, called Pangong Tso, Tso Nyak, Rum Tso (twin lakes) and Nyak Tso.
- Approximately **50% of the length of the overall lake lies within Tibet China, 40% in Ladakh India and the rest is disputed** and is a de-facto buffer zone between India and China.
- During winter the lake freezes completely, despite being saline water.

Source: Business Standard



6. Vadnagar

Topic: Culture

In News: Gujarat government has announced that the historic city of Vadnagar will soon be turned into a heritage destination.

More on the Topic:

- Vadnagar town is located in **Mehsana district in Gujarat**. It is a historically important town, with a history of continuous human settlements, dating back to the third and fourth centuries.
- The ancient town is rich in heritage, culture and holds many important archaeological treasures. **Vadnagar was earlier known as both Anatapura and Anandapura.**
- Vadnagar is also **one of the important Buddhist sites in India.**
- There used to be ancient Buddhist monasteries, the proof of which was found in the discovery of **images of Bodhisattva**, dating back to the third and fourth centuries.

Source: Hindu

