

1. Guidelines to prevent misleading advertisements

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), under the Department of Consumer Affairs, has notified 'Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022'.

More on the Topic:

- Guidelines forbid advertisements from **exaggerating the features of a product or service** in such a manner as to lead children to have unrealistic expectations of such product or service and claim any health or nutritional claims or benefits without being adequately and scientifically substantiated by a recognized body.
- Guidelines for **duties of manufacturers, service providers, advertisers and advertising agencies, due diligence to be carried out before endorsing and others.**
- **Free Claims Advertisements** shall not describe any goods, products or services free if consumers pay for packaging or any other unavoidable cost.
- **Penalties for violating the guidelines are also clearly outlined.** CCPA can impose a penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers for any misleading advertisements.
- For subsequent contraventions, **CCPA may impose a penalty of up to Rs 50 lakh.**
- The Authority **can prohibit the endorser of a misleading advertisement from making any endorsement for up to 1 year** and for subsequent contravention, prohibition can extend up to 3 years.



Significance of the Guidelines:

- The guidelines seek to ensure that **consumers are not being fooled with unsubstantiated claims, exaggerated promises, misinformation and false claims.**
- Such advertisements violate various rights of consumers such as **the right to be informed, the right to choose and the right to be safeguarded against potentially unsafe products and services.**
- Guidelines aim to **protect consumers' interests by bringing in more transparency and clarity** in the way advertisements are being published.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has been established under **section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019** for regulating matters relating to violation of the rights of the consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements which are prejudicial to the interests of public and consumers and to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.

Source: Indian Express

2. China Taiwan Issue

Topic: International Affairs

In News: China said that it would not hesitate to start a war if Taiwan declares independence.

More on the Topic:

- Since Taiwan is entirely dependent on the US for its defence against possible Chinese aggression, every spike in military tensions between China and Taiwan injects more hostility in the already strained relationship between Washington and Beijing.

China- Taiwan relations- Background:

- China has claimed Taiwan through its “one China” policy since the Chinese civil war forced the defeated Kuomintang, or Nationalist, to flee to the island in 1949 and has vowed to bring it under Beijing’s rule, by force if necessary.
- While Taiwan is **self-governed and de facto independent**, it has never formally declared independence from the mainland.
- Under the **“one country, two systems” formula**, Taiwan would have the right to run its own affairs; a similar arrangement is used in Hong Kong.
- Presently, Taiwan is claimed by China, which refuses diplomatic relations with countries that recognise the region.
- Although largely unrecognised by other countries, **Taiwan, officially the Republic of China (RoC), sees itself as a de jure sovereign state.**
- Taiwan is looking to invest in other countries to reduce their dependence on China, as most of the Taiwanese have invested in China.

Where does Taiwan stand in relation to China and the world?

- Taiwan, earlier known as Formosa, a tiny island off the east coast of China.
- The island is located in the **East China Sea**, to the northeast of Hong Kong, north of the Philippines and south of South Korea, and southwest of Japan.
- The US has a policy of **“strategic ambiguity” towards Taiwan.**
- This means that it maintains ties with Taipei, and sells weapons to it, but officially subscribes to the PRC’s “One China Policy” in which Taiwan does not exist as a separate entity.
- Just 15 countries around the world recognise Taiwan.** Most are very small, many are remote island nations. Although they do not have formal diplomatic ties, Taiwan and



India have been cooperating in various fields. India has **refused to endorse the “one-China” policy since 2010.**

Source: Indian Express

3. World Trade Organization – Tussle Between Rich and developing nations

Topic: International Relations

In News: In the upcoming ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) the US, the EU, New Zealand, Canada and Singapore have proposed outcomes on new issues such as sustainable agriculture and food systems.

More on the Topic:

- Developing countries claim this would **divert the attention from important pending issues like finding a permanent solution** to ensure food security for poor nations.
- Besides introducing sustainable agriculture, food systems, climate change and environment in agriculture negotiations, the developed countries have ignored the principle of **common but differentiated responsibility and Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT)** that ensures flexibility and policy space to developing and poor countries.
- The rich nations have proposed **to undertake work to achieve a permanent solution on public stocking for food security purposes (PSH) by the next ministerial.**



Common but differentiated responsibility and Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT):

- Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) is a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that acknowledges different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change.
- The principle of CBDR is enshrined in Earth Summit 1992, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- **CBDR is based on two elements of responsibilities**- one is the common responsibility of all the states to cater to the concerns of environmental protection and sustainable development and the other is of differentiated responsibility enabling the states to act, for environment protection, in their national capacity and as per their national priority.

About Public stockholding:

- Public stockholding is a policy tool used by the governments to purchase, stockpile and distribute food when needed.
- While stocking and distributing food is permitted under WTO rules, governments purchasing food at prices higher than market prices are considered to be subsidizing their farmers.
- These recent proposals **seek to limit the input subsidies that India gives for fertilisers and irrigation** and also lower the subsidy ceilings called de minimis in trade parlance.
- The de minimis level for India and developing countries is **10% of value of food production**.

Source: Hindu

4. Central Information Commission

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh appreciated Central Information Commission for achieving consistent decline in pendency with corresponding rise in disposal of RTI appeals.

More on the Topic:

- **The Central Information Commission is a statutory body**, set up under the Right to Information Act in 2005.
- It is intended to act **upon complaints from those individuals who have not been able to submit information requests** to a Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer due to the following reasons,
- Either the officer not have been appointed, or because the respective Central Assistant Public Information Officer or State Assistant Public Information Officer refused to receive the application for information under the Right to Information Act.
- The commission includes **one chief information commissioner and not more than ten information commissioners** who are appointed by the President of India.
- They are appointed on the recommendation of a **committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson**, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- After the amendments in 2019, central government will notify term of office for Chief Information Commissioner and ICs.



Source: Indian Express

5. Tasmania Becomes Carbon Negative

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Tasmania has become one of the first places in the world to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net carbon negative emissions.

More on the Topic:

- This has been achieved by cutting down logging activities.
- To date, only two countries have successfully gone carbon negative: Bhutan and Suriname.
- Unlike mainland Australia, Tasmania already has a low emission profile as the state relies mostly on hydroelectric power.
- Its primary source of greenhouse gas emission comes from logging of old-growth forests, where significant amounts of carbon dioxide is released when they're cut down.
- Forests are also important carbon sinks in the world; deforestation reduces forest's ability to absorb and sequester carbon, and help alleviate the impacts of climate change.



About Carbon Negative Status:

- Carbon negative means, in effect, that entities emit less than zero carbon dioxide and carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) greenhouse gasses.
- However, since it is impossible to emit a negative amount of carbon (or any other physical substance), being carbon negative refers to the net emissions created.
- To be carbon negative means to offset more carbon, through carbon capture, sequestration, or avoidance, than one contribute to the environment.

Source: Business Standard

6. Greater one-horned rhino

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Greater one horned rhino/the Indian rhinoceros, saw its global population reach its highest level since the 1980s.

More on the Topic:

- There are now a total of 4,014 greater one-horned rhinos in the wild, split between India and Nepal.
- Assam, the Indian state that hosts 70% of the species' population, just finished its biannual rhino survey and counted 274 more rhinos than the last survey.
- In addition to the pandemic, the International Rhino Foundation credits the governments of India and Nepal for helping grow the rhinos' populations.
- The species, **listed as vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature**, is targeted by poachers for their horns.
- They came close to extinction at the start of the 20th century, with only about 200 greater one-horned rhinos existing in the wild,



Source: Hindu

7. Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: The Reserve Bank of India has proposed to modify the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme.

More on the Topic:

- The PIDF scheme was operationalised by the RBI in January 2021 to **incentivise the deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure such as physical Point of Sale (PoS), mPoS (mobile PoS), Quick Response (QR) codes in Tier-3 to 6 centres and north-eastern States.**
- As of end-April 2022, **more than 1.18 crore new touch points have been deployed under the scheme**, against a target of 90 lakh PoS terminals and QR codes to be deployed over three years by 2023-end.





- Beneficiaries of **PM SVANidhi Scheme** in Tier-1 and 2 centres were later included in August 2021.
- PM SVANidhi stands for Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi. It is a central sector scheme launched in June 2020.

Source: Hindu
