



1. Amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021

Topic: Governance

Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021



In News: Government has notified Amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 for an Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable Internet.

More on the Topic

- Across Key changes effected in the rules are as under:
- (a) Currently, intermediaries are only required to inform users about not uploading certain categories of harmful/unlawful content.
- These amendments **impose a legal obligation on intermediaries to take reasonable efforts to prevent users from uploading such content.** The new provision will ensure that the intermediary's obligation is not a mere formality.
- (b) For effective communication of the rules and regulations of the intermediary, **it is important that the communication is done in regional Indian languages as well.**



- (c) The grounds in rule 3(1)(b)(ii) have been rationalized by removing the words 'defamatory' and 'libellous'. **Whether any content is defamatory or libellous will be determined through judicial review.**
- (d) Some of the content categories in rule 3(1)(b) have been rephrased to deal particularly with **misinformation, and content that could incite violence between different religious/caste groups.**
- (e) The amendment requires intermediaries to **respect the rights guaranteed to users** under the Constitution, including a reasonable expectation of due diligence, privacy and transparency.
- (f) **Grievance Appellate Committee(s) will be established** to allow users to appeal against the inaction of, or decisions taken by intermediaries on user complaints. However, users will always have the right to approach courts for any remedy.
- Each GAC will consist of **a chairperson and two whole time Malicious post members appointed by the Central government.** The GAC will hear appeals by social media users against social media decisions of grievance officers appointed by the intermediary.
- (g) **Obligations for intermediary:** Intermediaries can develop and Increase in Need of IT self-regulation by implement "appropriate safeguards" to prevent misuse of the persistent rise rules, 2022 social media grievance redressal mechanism.

Concerns:

- The new rules have been criticised for being excessive control by the Government on freedom of speech and expression.
- It may hamper constructive criticism on government.

Source: Indian Express

2. Fungal Priority Pathogen List



Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released the first-ever priority pathogen list which includes 19 fungi to identify fungi which pose the greatest threat to public health.

More on the Topic:

- It has been divided into three categories — **critical, high and medium priority**. The critical group includes *Candida auris*, which is highly drug resistant and has caused a number of outbreaks in hospitals worldwide, as well as *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, and *Candida albicans*.
- **The high group** includes a number of **other fungi from the Candida family** as well as others such as **Mucorales**, a group containing the fungi that causes **mucormycosis or "black fungus"**, an infection which rose rapidly in seriously ill people - particularly in India - during COVID-19.
- **The medium group** lists a number of other fungi, including **Coccidioides spp** and **Cryptococcus gattii**.
- This classification is based on the pathogen's public health impact or emerging anti fungal resistance risk.

Significance of the List:

- The WHO urges a **geography-wise close reading of these lists is key for assessing and tackling the threat**. The list's publication is opportune as fungi are becoming an increasingly common threat to public health.
- Global warming and increasing international travel and trade are fuelling this rise.

- The COVID-19 pandemic saw an increase in mucormycosis or black fungus infections among those hospitalised.
- Currently, only a few treatment candidates are being tested and just four classes of antifungal medicines are available. Poor diagnostic systems further compound the situation.
- The fungal infections are growing and are ever more resistant to treatments, becoming a public health concern worldwide.
- A three-layered approach emerged in the strategies suggested by policymakers, governments and public health professionals.
- The strategy includes:
 - **Strengthening laboratory capacity and surveillance.**
 - Sustaining investments in research, development and innovation
 - Enhancing public health interventions for **prevention and control.**

Source: Down to Earth

3. BCCI announces Pay Parity



Topic: Governance



In News: BCCI announced that India's women cricketers will be paid the same international match fee as their male counterparts.

More on the Topic:

- The step is significant since the world's richest cricket body will finally walk the talk on pay parity.
- Also, the BCCI will become the second cricket body after New Zealand Cricket, which announced in July that it would award both its men and women players equal match pay.
- This will certainly lift the morale of women who represent the national squad.

About Gender pay Gap:

- Recently, the World Economic Forum (WEF) ranked India at 135 out of 146 countries in its Global Gender Gap (GGG) Index for 2022.
- According to the estimates of the World Inequality Report 2022, in India, **men earn 82 per cent of the labor income whereas women earn 18 per cent of it.**

Reasons for Gender Pay Gap:

- The pandemic affected women workers most in terms of job and income losses. They were not able to regain their lost jobs.
- Discrimination and stereo types do exist in the society which favours gender pay gap.

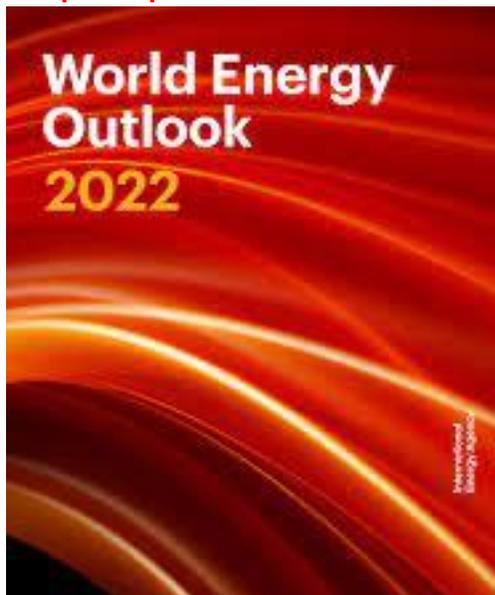
Initiatives to Address Gender pay Gap:

- **The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** provides an international legal framework for realising gender equality.
- **Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC)** was launched in 2017 as a multi-stakeholder initiative led by the ILO, UN Women and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) seeks to achieve equal pay for women and men everywhere.
- India has taken required reforms in the **Minimum Wages Act in 1948** and adopted the Equal Remuneration Act in 1976. India has also enacted the Code on Wages.
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** in 2005 has also benefited rural women workers and helped reduce the gender pay gap directly and indirectly.

Source: Hindu

4. World Energy Outlook

Topic: Reports and Indices



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In News: World Energy Outlook was published by International Energy Agency.

More on the Topic:

- Important Findings:
- Coal generation is projected to expand in absolute terms in the stated policies scenario, peaking around 2030, though its share of electricity generation will fall from below 75 percent to 55 percent over this period.
- Talking specifically about India, the report stated that **the primary challenge for the country is going to be about meeting its rising electricity demand.**
- India will have to find out ways to meet this increasing demand with renewables and nuclear on a scale that is large enough to reduce the use of “unabated coal-fired generation”, which provides nearly three-quarters of electricity supply currently.
- **India became the world’s second-largest coal producer in 2021** (in energy terms), overtaking Australia and Indonesia, and that it plans to increase domestic production by more than 100 million tonnes of coal equivalent (Mtce) by 2025 from the current levels.
- At present, **India accounts for just over 10 percent of global coal consumption, after China which accounts for 55 percent.**
- Coal demand in India rose rapidly between 2010 and 2019, mainly as increases in electricity demand were largely met through coal-fired power.
- Coal use in India dropped by 7 percent in 2020 due to the pandemic, but increased by 13 percent in 2021, therefore already surpassing the 2019 levels.

Source: PIB

5. TReDS platform

What Is **TReDS**?

A Complete Guide To **TReDS**



Topic: e- Governance

In News: The Ministry of Finance has asked 92 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to register themselves on the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS).

More on the Topic:

- Trade Receivables Discounting System or TReDS is a welcome step by RBI to secure finances for micro, small and medium enterprises.
- It has been set up under the regulatory framework set up by RBI under Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007.
- It is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing / discounting of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through multiple financiers.
- It is a platform for uploading, accepting, discounting, trading and settling invoices of MSMEs.

Source: Business Standard

6. Glyphosate

Topic: Environment and Ecology



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In News: Government has banned Glyphosate.

More on the Topic:

- Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum systemic herbicide and crop desiccant.
- It is an organophosphorus compound, specifically a phosphonate, which acts by inhibiting the plant enzyme 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase.
- It is used to kill weeds, especially annual broadleaf weeds and grasses that compete with crops.

Source: Business Standard

7. The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)

Topic: Economy



In News: The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) organised an Investor Education, Awareness and Protection Conference.

More on the Topic:

- IEPF Authority has been established under sub-section (5) of section 125 of Companies Act, 2013 with the objective of promoting Investor Education, Awareness and Protection and for administration of the IEPF fund.
- It has undertaken a wide gamut of activities to accelerate the pace of investor education among the masses at large.

Source: Business Standard
