

# NEWS TODAY

## MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MEITY) NOTIFIED THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (INTERMEDIARY GUIDELINES AND DIGITAL MEDIA ETHICS CODE) AMENDMENT RULES, 2023

• These rules are an amendment to **Information Technology Rules, 2021** (refer infographics).

• **Highlights:**

➤ Inserted definitions of **'online gaming intermediary', 'online gaming self-regulatory body', etc.**

➤ **Obligations on intermediaries:**

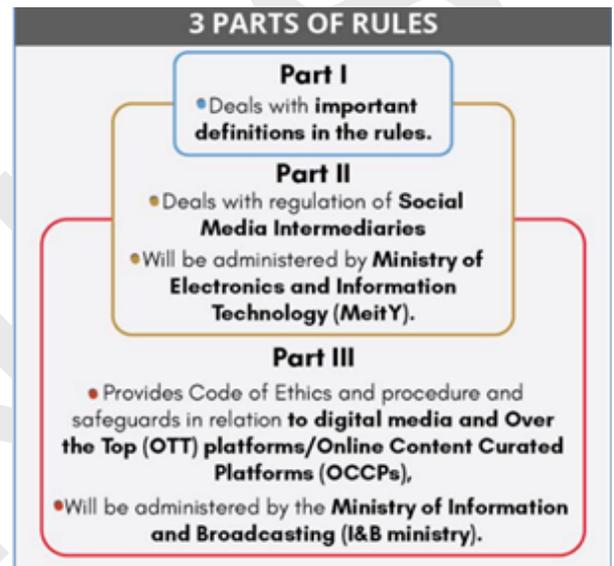
- Not **host, publish or share** any online game that can **cause harm**, or that has not been verified.
- **No advertisement or surrogate advertisement** of such an online game is hosted.
- At least once in a year, **inform its users of its rules and regulations, or any change therein.**
- Not to **publish, share or host fake, false or misleading** information in respect of any business of Central Government.
- Such information will be **identified by notified Fact Check Unit.**

➤ **Additional obligations** in relation to **online games involving real money:**

- Displaying of a **mark of verification** by self-regulatory body on such games;
- Informing users of policy for **withdrawal or refund** of deposit,
- **Fees and other charges etc.**

➤ Government may notify **multiple self-regulatory bodies.**

- Self-regulatory body will have **authority to satisfy** itself that online game **does not involve wagering on any outcome.**
- Also, online gaming intermediary and game complies with **rules, requirements under law.**



## CABINET APPROVES LASER INTERFEROMETER GRAVITATIONAL-WAVE OBSERVATORIES (LIGO)-INDIA, GRAVITATIONAL-WAVE DETECTOR TO BE BUILT IN HINGOLI, MAHARASHTRA

• **LIGO-India will be built by the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology with an MoU with the U.S. National Science Foundation.**

➤ The observatory will be **the third of its kind.** It is made to the **exact specifications of the twin LIGO, in Louisiana and Washington** in the U.S.

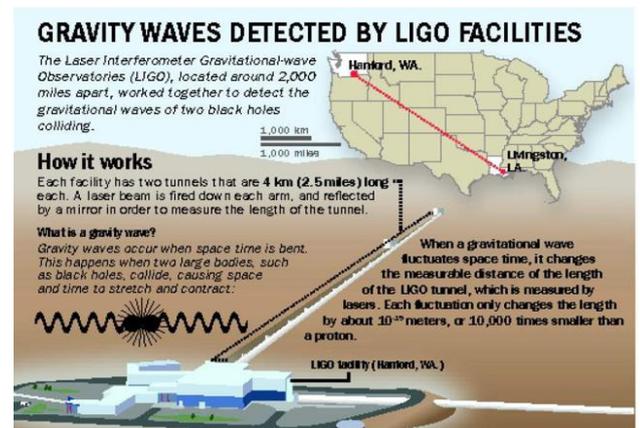
➤ **A fourth detector in Kagra, Japan, is in the pipeline.**

➤ Four comparable detectors need to be **operating simultaneously around the globe to localise a source of gravitational waves anywhere in the sky.**

• **About LIGO:**

➤ LIGO currently consists of **two interferometers, each with two 4 km long arms** arranged in the **shape of an "L".** These instruments act as **'antennae' to detect gravitational waves.**

➤ It comprises stable **high-power lasers, precisely figured mirrors, etc.**



● **About Gravitational Waves (GW):** When **two massive objects collide**, they create a **ripple in space and time** in such a way that waves of undulating space-time would propagate in all directions away from the source.

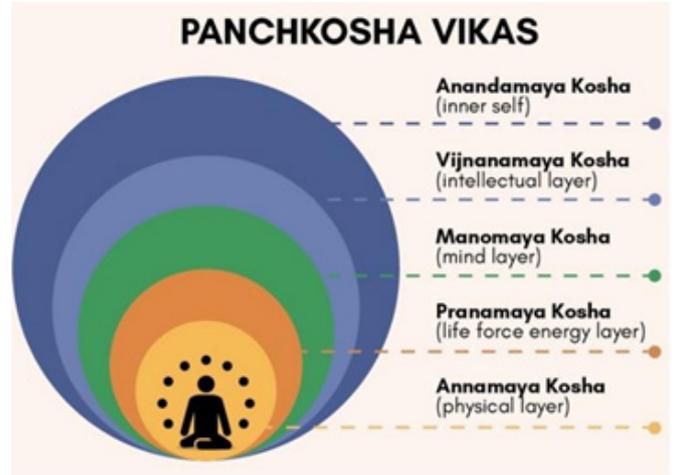
- Predicted in **Einstein's General Theory of Relativity (1915)**
- They travel at the **speed of light**, carrying with them information about their origins.

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION INVITES SUGGESTIONS ON DRAFT NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION

● It covers curriculum framework for School Education as envisioned in **New Education Policy 2020**.

● **Highlights:**

- Focus on making students acquainted with true sources of knowledge through six pramanas:
  - **Pratyaksa:** Interpreted as direct perception through the five sense.
  - **Anumana:** Using inferences to come to new conclusions from observations.
  - **Upamana:** Knowing through analogy and comparison.
  - **Arthapatti:** Knowing through circumstantial implication.
  - **Anupalabdi:** Perception of non-existence is considered a valid form of knowledge.
  - **Sabda:** Testimony of an expert is admissible as true knowledge.
- Focuses on **moral development of a child** through Panchakosha Vikas (refer image).
- **For Grade 10 certification**, students will have to **take two essential courses** from **eight Curricular Areas** available like arts, social science, vocational education, etc.
- **In Grade 11 and 12**, students will be offered choice-based courses in the same disciplines.
- For Class 11 and 12, **Modular Board Exams** will be offered as opposed to a single exam at end of year. Final result will be **based on cumulative result** of each exam.
- Focuses **importance of questioning** by giving examples of Upanishads.



## CABINET APPROVES REVISED DOMESTIC GAS PRICING GUIDELINES BASED ON KIRIT PAREK COMMITTEE

- **Natural gas (both Compressed and Natural) produced from legacy or old fields, known as (Administered Price Mechanism) APM gas**, will now be indexed to the price of imported crude oil.
- These guidelines would be **applicable to gas produced from**
  - Nomination fields of **ONGC/OIL**.
  - **New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Pre-NELP blocks**.

Old pricing system	New pricing System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prices were benchmarked to the rate of gas in the international market.</li> <li>• The prices were revised on a half yearly basis.</li> <li>• There was no floor or ceiling mechanism.</li> <li>• No premium was allowed to be charged in the old regime.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The price would be 10 % of the monthly average of Indian Crude Basket.</li> <li>• The prices are notified on a monthly basis.</li> <li>• The Administered Price Mechanism (APM) will be subjected to a floor and ceiling price which will remain unchanged for 2 years..</li> <li>• The new guidelines allow a 20 percent premium over APM for gas produced from new wells.</li> </ul>

- **Advantage of the New over Old**
  - Stable prices will help in **managing domestic inflation**.
  - Allow India's **smooth transition towards a gas based economy**.
  - It will also **reduce prices of fertilizers** as gas is a major input material.
    - It will **reduce the government's subsidy burden**.
  - **Incentivise long term investment** in exploration and extraction of domestic gas.

## INDIGENOUS IDU MISHMIS ARE PROTESTING A PROPOSED TIGER RESERVE IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- **The Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) in Arunachal Pradesh** would soon be notified as a tiger reserve.
  - The **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (WPA)**, require that **rights of people recognized in forest areas within core and critical tiger reserves** may be modified and resettled for providing inviolate spaces to tiger or wild animals.
    - This provision also flows from the **Forest Rights Act 2006**.
  - **Idu Mishmi** people feel that a tiger reserve would **hinder their access** to the forest.
  - There are **fewer restrictions** in WLS compared to Tiger Reserve.
  - WLS is **open to the public** and its **boundaries are fluid**.
- **About Tiger reserves:**
  - Notified by **State Governments** as per **Section 38V of WPA, 1972** on advise of NTCA.
  - Consists of:
    - **'Core' or 'Critical Tiger Habitat'**, managed as an **inviolable area** for tiger conservation.
    - **'Buffer' or Peripheral area** immediately abutting a Core area, which may be accorded a **lesser degree of habitat protection**.
- **About Idu Mishmi tribe**
  - It is a major **sub-tribe of Mishmi group**.
  - They inhabit the **Lohit district, Dibang Valley district and Lower Dibang Valley district**.
  - They are of **mongoloid stock** and speak the **Tibeto-Burman language**.

# BRICS NATIONS WORKING ON CREATING NEW CURRENCY

- Reports of **BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)** nations developing a new reserve currency has brought issue of **de-dollarization** in limelight.
- **Background**
  - The US dollar became **the official reserve currency of the world in 1944**.
  - The decision was made by **the Bretton Woods Agreement**.
  - Because of **dollar dominance since then**, US has for long used **imposition of sanctions as a tool** to achieve foreign policy goals.
- **De-dollarisation:** It entails a **mix of macroeconomic and microeconomic policies to enhance the attractiveness of the local currency** in economic transactions.
  - Plus, to **raise awareness of the exchange-risk related costs** of dollarization.
- **Significance of De-dollarisation:**
  - **Reduce** other countries' **dependence on the US dollar**.
  - **Reduce their exposure to currency fluctuations and interest rate changes**.
  - **Improve economic stability and reduce the risk of financial crises**.
- **Steps taken by India to promote Rupee:**
  - Recently, **18 countries**, including **UK, Germany, Russia and the United Arab Emirates**, have been given permission to **trade in Indian rupees**
  - **Indian and Russian banks Open Special Vostro Accounts for trade in rupee**.
  - India's **new Foreign Trade Policy (2023)** will support **international trade in rupee**.



## ALSO IN NEWS

 <p><b>Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPC has <b>decided unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged</b> at 6.50 per cent.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ By pausing, <b>the RBI is trying to ensure that India's financial system does not suffer the kind of crises</b> seen by banking collapses in the US and Europe.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>About Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It was <b>constituted in 2016</b> under Section 45ZB of <b>RBI Act 1934</b>.</li> <li>➤ It <b>determines the policy repo</b> rate required to achieve the inflation target.</li> <li>➤ It has 6-member of which <b>three are from RBI</b> including the Governor (having casting vote) who is the <b>ex officio Chairperson</b>.</li> <li>➤ MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year. The quorum for the meeting is <b>four members</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Unified Payments Interface (UPI)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RBI said that individuals <b>with pre-approved credit lines</b> from banks will soon be able to use it to make payments over UPI.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pre-sanctioned or pre-approved credit refers to <b>credit that banks approve for customers</b> after analyzing internal data.</li> <li>➤ Currently, UPI payments can be done <b>between deposit accounts</b>, sometimes intermediated by pre-paid instruments including wallets.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>About UPI:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Launched <b>in 2016</b>, it is an <b>instant payment system</b> developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Great Nicobar Project</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, The <b>National Green Tribunal constituted a committee</b> to review the environmental clearances given to the Great Nicobar Project.</li> <li>• <b>Great Nicobar Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It involves building a <b>Greenfield coastal city</b> which will be developed as a free trade zone with transshipment terminal and an airport.</li> <li>➤ Further, a <b>greenfield township</b> along with a power plant forms a major component of the master plan.</li> <li>➤ The project area falls <b>within a 10 km radius of the Galathea Bay National Park</b> and the <b>Campbell Bay National Park</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



### Ground-level ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)

- According to CPCB, Ground-level ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) has started to **emerge as Delhi's lead pollutant**.
- **About Ground-level ozone (O<sub>3</sub>):**
  - It is called a "**secondary**" **pollutant** because it is produced when two primary pollutants (nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds) react in **sunlight and stagnant air**.
- **Sources:**
  - Emissions from **cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, and chemical plants, etc.**
- **Effects:**
  - Can make it very **difficult to breathe** and **cause coughing and shortness** of breath.
  - Can damage **vegetation and ecosystems**.



### Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

- Recently, the **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** deployed two deep sea gliders into the Bay of Bengal to study climate change.
- **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**
  - **Genesis** - It was established as an autonomous body in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is a unit of the Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO).
  - **Mission** - To provide ocean data, information and advisory services to society, industry, the government and the scientific community.
  - **Organizational Structure** -
    - **Chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.**
    - A **director along with a governing council** oversees its functioning.
  - **Other important functions** -
    - To **establish an Early Warning System** for Tsunami and Storm Surges.
    - To **promote research in the field of ocean information** and related services including satellite oceanography.



### Whistling village (Kongthong village)

- An MP presented a development report on **Kongthong village in Meghalaya**, India's **only whistling village**, to the PM.
  - **The village was adopted under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY).**
- **About Kongthong village:**
  - Kongthong is located in the **East Khasi Hills in Meghalaya**.
  - It is popular as the '**whistling village**' due to its **unique tradition of 'Jingrwai Lawbei'** (meaning **the Song of the Clan's First Woman**).
  - It is a **tradition under which mothers create a tune for their newborns**. These tunes are often used as **names**.
  - Kongthong people belong to the Seng Khasi Tribe and speak Khasi language.



### Ladakh's wood carvings

- Prime Minister applauds **GI Tag for Ladakh's Wood Carving, a first of its kind**.
- Wood carving of Ladakh has been an **aesthetically vibrant art form** in Ladakh region.
  - It will boost **exports, promotes goods at international level, and will bring economic prosperity** to producers and stakeholders.
- GI sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation** that is due to that origin.
  - **Geographical Indications (GI) of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** provide for registration and better protection of GI for 10 years.

### Personality in news



#### Babu Jagjivan Ram (1908: 1986)

- Prime Minister pays tributes to Babu Jagjivan Ram on his birth anniversary.
- Born in Bihar, he was a **freedom fighter, prominent leader of the untouchable**.
- **Contributions**
  - In 1934, he founded **Akhil Bhartiya Ravidas Mahasabha** and the **All-India Depressed Classes League**.
  - In 1935, he appeared before **Hammond Commission** and **demanding, for the first time, voting rights for Dalits**.
  - **Participated in Civil Disobedience Movement, Satyagraha movement, and Quit India Movement.**
- **Values:** Courage, Visionary etc.