

April - 16

NATIONAL

IT amendment rules 2023

Censoring 'fake news'

A rundown on the new amendments in the IT Rules, 2021

■ The amendment requires platforms to take steps to prevent "fake news" on the Central Government from being hosted

■ The government will appoint an agency, likely the Press Information



Bureau, to determine what is considered to be fake news

■ MoS Chandrasekhar said this amendment would only remove the legal shield for third party posts on social media platforms, and wouldn't constitute censorship



I don't want anybody to conflict this as some battleground between free speech and misinformation.

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023.
- ❖ As per the new rule, MeitY can constitute a fact-checking unit to determine fake news with respect to any business of the central government.
- ❖ The fact-checking unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the "preferred agency" for the task.
- ❖ Any news that has been deemed "fake" by fact-checking unit will have to be taken down by all platforms, including social media platforms.

Indian Space Policy 2023

- ❖ The Indian Space Policy 2023 was recently approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security.
- ❖ The Policy is expected to have a significant impact on the Indian space economy.
- ❖ It aims to increase India's share in the global space economy from less than 2% to 10%.
- ❖ The policy delineates the roles and responsibilities of ISRO, NSIL and IN-SPACe.



- ❖ ISRO will focus its energies on developing new technologies, systems, and research and development.
- ❖ NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) will be responsible for strategic activities related to the space sector.
- ❖ The objective of NSIL is to augment private industry participation in the space economy and create a self-reliant space industry in India.
- ❖ Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) will serve as the interface between ISRO and non-governmental entities.

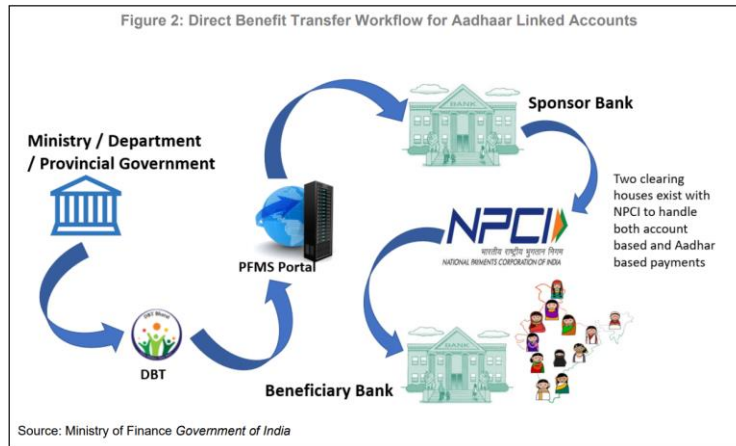
Key Provisions

- Delineate roles and responsibilities of private players as well as public-private mediators
- Provides clarity in space reforms and augments private industry participation to drive the space economy opportunity
- Institutionalizes the private sector participation in the space sector, with ISRO focusing on research and development of advanced space technologies.

Stacking up the Benefits Lessons from India's Digital Journey – Report

- ❖ International Monetary Fund published a paper titled 'Stacking up the Benefits Lessons from India's Digital Journey.'
- ❖ India has built a world-class digital public infrastructure.
- ❖ It is transforming lives and economy and can be a lesson for many countries to follow.
- ❖ The India Stack is the collective name of a set of commonly used digital public infrastructure (DPIs) in India.
- ❖ It consists of three different layers
 - Unique identity (Aadhaar)
 - Complimentary payments systems (Unified Payments Interface, Aadhaar Payments Bridge, Aadhaar Enabled Payment Service), and

- Data exchange (Digi Locker and Account Aggregator).



State of India's Environment report



- ❖ The Centre for Science and Environment and Down to Earth recently released the 2023 State of India's Environment report.
- ❖ Over 30,000 waterbodies have been encroached on in the country.
- ❖ India is generating 150,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste every day.
- ❖ More than half of this is either dumped in landfills or remains unattended.
- ❖ Four years and 11 months is the average duration of life lost to air pollution in India.
- ❖ In Haryana, the average life span reduction was seven years and five months.
- ❖ The lowest lifespan fall was recorded in Ladakh, shortened by four months.
- ❖ Rural India is losing more years due to air pollution-related health issues than the urban belt.

- ❖ India needs 35 per cent more community health centres.
- ❖ Between January and October 2022 (304 days), India witnessed extreme weather events on 271 days.
- ❖ These extreme weather events claimed over 2,900 lives.
- ❖ India's overall global rank in meeting the United Nations-mandated sustainable development goals (SDGs) has also slipped by nine places.
- ❖ Environmental crimes continue unabated and courts need to decide on 245 cases every day to clear the backlog.

International Big Cat Alliance

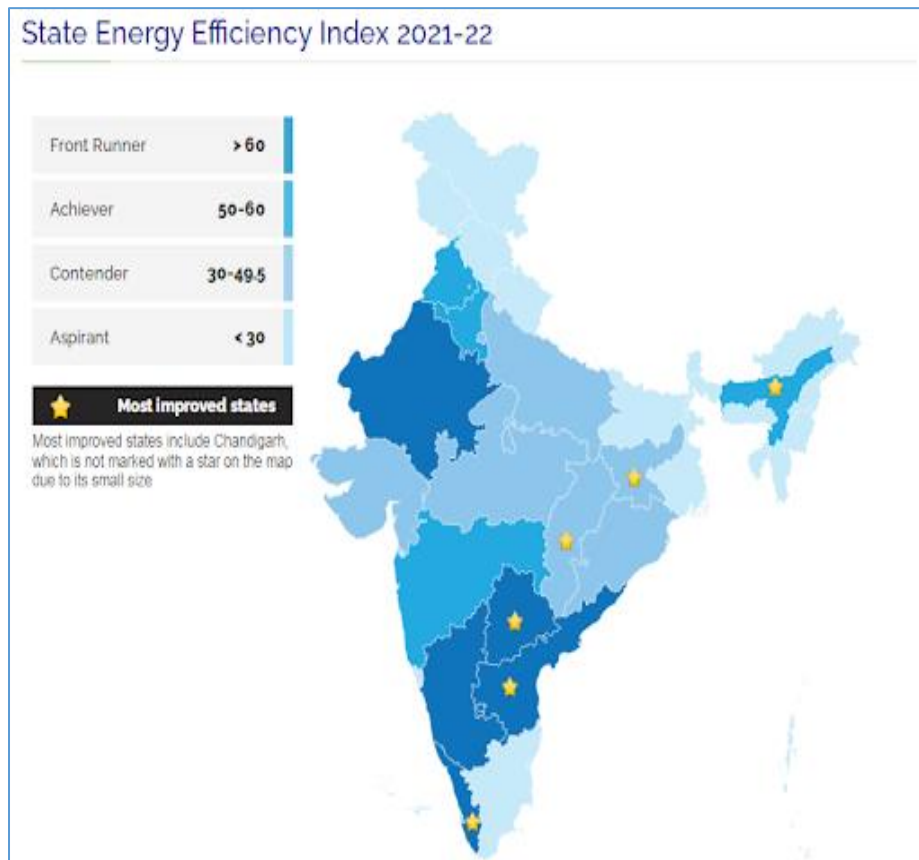
- ❖ The Prime Minister launched the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) during the 50 years of Project Tiger celebration.
- ❖ IBCA aims at conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma harbouring our planet.
- ❖ It would further strengthen global cooperation and efforts to conserve the wild denizens, especially the big cats.



State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22

- ❖ Union Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy has launched the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22 report.
- ❖ This is the annual progress of states and UTs in energy efficiency implementation, for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22.

- ❖ It is developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in association with Alliance for an Energy – Efficient Economy (AEEE).
- ❖ It has an updated framework of 50 indicators aligned with national priorities.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana are in the Front Runner category (>60 points).
- ❖ Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab are in the Achiever category (50-60 points).
- ❖ Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Chandigarh are the top-performing states in their respective state groups.
- ❖ Telangana and Andhra Pradesh showed the most improvement since the last index.



INTERNATIONAL

World's 1st Drone Carrier

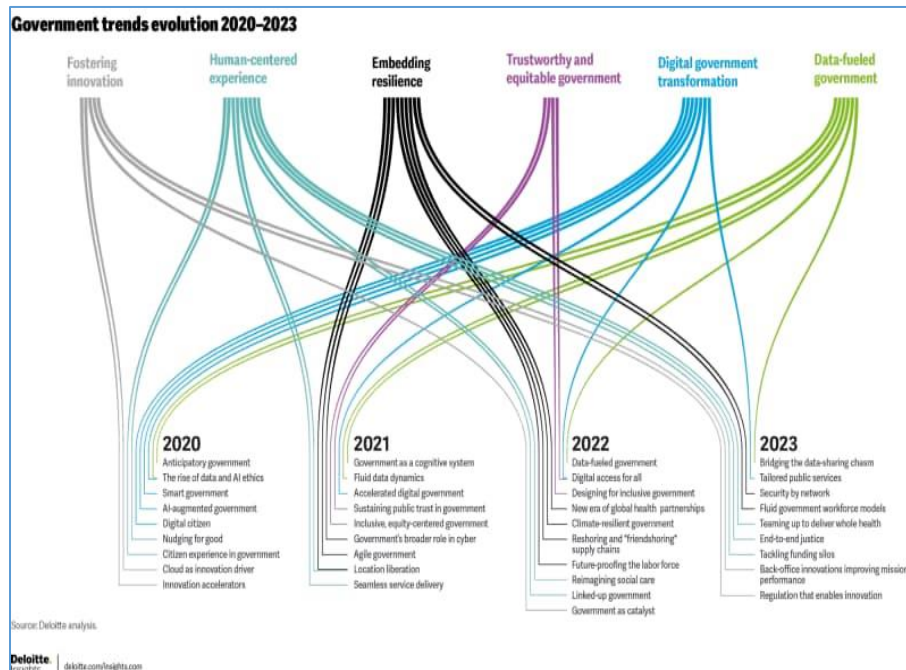
- ❖ Turkey commissioned its largest warship, TCG Anadolu.
- ❖ It is touted as the world's first Unmanned Combat Aerial Aircraft (UCAV) carrier.

- ❖ This vessel will allow us to conduct military and humanitarian operations in every corner of the world.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Government Trends Report



- ❖ The 'Government Trends' report has been published by the Deloitte Center for Government Insights.

- ❖ The unifying theme of the 2023 report is 'dissolving boundaries'.
- ❖ The report has highlighted the nine trends that are reshaping how governments deliver solutions to the common citizen.
- ❖ COVID-19 was a major catalyst in increasing the collaboration between governments and agencies across the sectors.
- ❖ Out of the nine trends, five are cross-cutting - meaning the governments are actively working to eliminate obstacles in key areas.
- ❖ The remaining four trends have been encapsulated under domain-focused trends.

ENVIRONMENT

Asian King Vulture conservation and breeding center



- ❖ The world's first conservation and breeding centre for the Asian king vulture is set to open in Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj district.
- ❖ The centre was named as Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre (JCBC).
- ❖ It is a 15-year project which aims to raise at least 40 vultures.
- ❖ It is aimed is to maintain a sustainable population of the species by breeding king vultures in captivity and releasing them into the wild.

- ❖ The red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*) is localized primarily to northern India.
- ❖ In 2004, the species was up listed to 'near threatened' from 'least concern' by the IUCN.
- ❖ In 2007, it was up listed to 'critically endangered' in the IUCN Red List.

New butterfly species discovered in Kerala



- ❖ Researchers have recently discovered *Caltoris bromus sadasiva* near Akkulam and Vembanad lakes in Kerala.
- ❖ It is also the first record of the species *Bromus swift* (*Caltoris bromus*).
- ❖ It is found in the Western Ghats and Peninsular India.
- ❖ It belongs to HesperIIDae family of Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies).
- ❖ The butterfly was first spotted at Akkulam lake in 2005 and later in Vembanad in 2009 by Dr. Sadasivan.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Keshub Mahindra

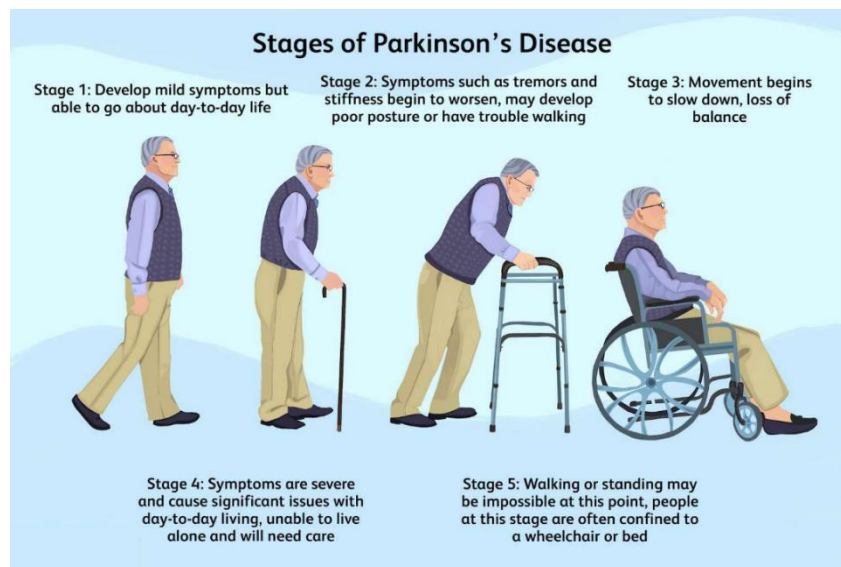
- ❖ Keshub Mahindra, ex-Mahindra Group chairman, passed away recently.
- ❖ During his chairmanship, the Mahindra Group grew from a manufacturer of automobiles to a federation of companies.

- ❖ He was elected the President of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) SIAM in 1964.
- ❖ He had served as the non-executive Chairman of Union Carbide India Ltd when the Bhopal gas tragedy occurred in 1984.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Parkinson's Day - April 11



- ❖ It aims to provide the patients and health care people a way to work together to raise awareness about the disease.
- ❖ This day mark the birth anniversary of Dr James Parkinson, who identified Parkinson's as a as a medical condition.
- ❖ He published an article 'An Essay on the Shaking Palsy' in 1817.

- ❖ Parkinson's is a neurodegenerative disease which affects the neurological system.

International Day for Street Children - April 12

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness for kids who are frequently left out of statistics.
- ❖ This day strives to provide them with medical care, education, and skills training for a better quality of life.
- ❖ There are 2,02,765 children living on the streets of India.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Keeping Street-Connected Children Safe'.



World Chagas Disease Day - April 14

CHAGAS: SILENT KILLER

Chagas disease is a **neglected tropical disease** caused by the *Trypanosoma cruzi* parasite. It is spread mostly by insects known as **Triatominae**, or **kissing bugs**. If left untreated, Chagas can cause **serious problems to the heart and digestive system**.

- 1

The **kissing bug** (also known as *vinchuca*, *barbeiro*, *pito*, *chinche*, *chipo*) carries the parasite
- 2

The bug hides in the walls and under the roofs of mud and straw shacks
- 3

It bites people in their sleep and defecates close to the bite, causing them to contract the disease
- 4

The parasitic infection can also be transmitted by:

 - contaminated food
 - blood transfusions and organ transplants
 - mother to child transmission

Acute phase (2 months)
Mild or no symptoms

Chronic asymptomatic phase (10-30 years)
No symptoms

Chronic clinical phase
1 in 3 infected people develop heart and digestive system problems, which may lead to **death**

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about this little-known disease that affects millions every year, especially the poor population and people in Latin America.

- ❖ In 2019, the 72nd World Health Assembly dedicated this day to the disease.
- ❖ This year's theme is "time to integrate Chagas disease into primary health care".
- ❖ Chagas disease, also known as American trypanosomiasis.
- ❖ The disease is named after physician Carlos Chagas who first detected it in a Brazilian child in 1909.
- ❖ It is a communicable parasitic disease that has infected 6-7 million people and claims around 12,000 lives every year across the globe.
- ❖ It is caused by the parasite protozoan *Trypanosoma cruzi*.
- ❖ There are currently no vaccines available for Chagas disease.

National Fire Service Day - April 14



- ❖ This day pays homage to brave fire personnel, who have lost their lives while performing their duties.
- ❖ It was on this day in 1944, during a fire-fighting operation that 66 fire personnel belonging to the Bombay Fire Brigade, died.
- ❖ The theme of this year is "Learn Fire Safety, Increase Productivity".
- ❖ April 14th to 21 is observed as 'Fire Safety Week'.

- ❖ The theme of this year is 'Awareness in Fire Safety for Growth of National Infrastructure (AGNI)'.

Universal Day of Culture - April 15

- ❖ This day is the result of an international agreement to ratify legal recognition for the preservation of cultural artefacts and works of art.
- ❖ The United States ratified it for the first time on April 15, 1935.
- ❖ This day seeks to preserve the cultures of all nations and communities.

