

CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY (CCPA)

Recently, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued notices to e-commerce entities, Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal for the sale of toys in violation of standards directed for compulsory use by the Central Government.



Why in news?

- CCPA has sought a response from the e-commerce entities within 7 days from the issuance of a notice, failing which necessary action may be initiated against them under the provisions of the **Consumer**

Protection Act, 2019.

- It has also written to District Collectors across India to investigate unfair trade practices and violation of consumer rights concerning the manufacture or sale of such goods and submit Action Taken Report to CCPA.

Key facts about the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)

- It is a regulatory body established in 2020 based on the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- Nodal Ministry: **The Ministry of Consumer Affairs.**
- **Composition**
 - It will have a **Chief Commissioner** as head, and only two other commissioners as members one of whom will deal with matters relating to goods while the other will look into cases relating to services.
 - The CCPA will have an **Investigation Wing** that will be headed by a **Director General.**
 - District Collectors too, will have the power to investigate complaints of violations of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and false or misleading advertisements.

WHO IS A MINORITY CITIZEN IN INDIA?

Recently, the Central Government submitted the views of 24 States to the Supreme Court on whether religious and linguistic minority communities should be identified and notified by the Union Government or the respective State Governments.



About:

- **Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.**

Who gives minority status in India?

- The **Central Government** decides who gets the minority community status in India.
- It is **done under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.**
- Only those belonging to the communities notified under Section 2(c) of the 1992 law are regarded as minority citizens.
- The **central government has notified only six communities** as having the minority status at the national level. Five of them were declared minority communities in October 1993 Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis. In January 2014, the Centre added Jains to the list.
- States generally don't have their separate lists of the minority communities. But there are exceptions. For example, Maharashtra has notified Jews as a minority community in the state.

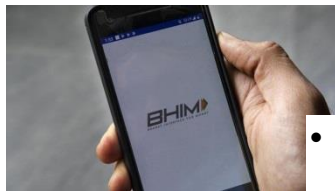
Constitutional provisions with regard to minorities

- **Article 29 and Article 30** guarantee certain rights to the minorities.
- Article 29 protects the interests of the minorities by making a provision that any citizen / section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture have the right to conserve the same
- Article 29 mandates that no discrimination would be done on the ground of religion, race, caste, language or any of them
- While **Article 30 and Article 29 of the Constitution do not specify 'minorities' in India, it is classified into religious minorities and linguistic minorities.**

- **Religious Minorities in India:** The basic ground for a community to be nominated as a religious minority is the numerical strength of the community.
 - **Linguistic Minorities:** Class or group of people whose mother language or mother tongue is different from that of the majority groups is known as the linguistic minorities.
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WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT NRI ACCOUNTS?

Non-resident account types like NRE/NRO that have international mobile numbers will now be allowed to transact with UPI, according to a notice by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).



Why in news?

- Transactions from mobile numbers of ten countries will be enabled to begin with — Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, United States of America, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.
- These NRI accounts will be permitted to onboard and transact in UPI, provided the member banks ensure such accounts are **only allowed as per the extant FOREIGN EXCHANGE MANAGEMENT ACT (FEMA) regulations** and they adhere to the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The NPCI noted that **all onboarding and transaction level checks** — such as cooling period and risk rules — **will be applicable** as per existing UPI guidelines.

Different NRI Account types:

- In India, there are three types of accounts that Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) can open – Non-Residential External (NRE) Account, Non-Residential Ordinary (NRO) Account, and Foreign Currency Non-Residential (FCNR) (B) Account.

NRE Account:

- NRE Account can be **opened and maintained by NRIs with earnings originating from the respective individual's country of residence** but shall be held in Indian rupee denominations.

- **Withdrawals can be made in the currency in which the NRI resides** and therefore there is a possibility of amount fluctuation.
- **Income from the NRE account is tax-free** as the principal and interest amounts are exempted from taxation.

NRO Account:

- An NRO Account can be **opened with income earned from within India.**
- The source of income can either be rent, dividends, etc.
- Even though **deposits can be in INR or any other foreign currency, the withdrawals can only be in Indian rupees** in an NRO account.
- **Interest earned on the income in an NRO account is liable for taxation.**

FCNR (B) Account:

- Under this, NRIs or POI can **make these deposits in the currency of their country of residence and shall be held in that account in any one of the foreign currencies prescribed by RBI.**
- **Income from the FCNR account is tax-free** as the principal and interest amounts are exempted from taxation.
- The **rate of interest does not fluctuate in an FCNR** (Foreign Currency Non-Resident) account because of the deposits and withdrawals made in foreign currencies.

WHAT WAS A MEGARAPTOR?

Recently, Scientists have found the remains of four species of dinosaurs, including a megaraptor, in an inhospitable valley in Chilean Patagonia for the first time.



About Megaraptor:

- Megaraptor was a **large theropod of the Cretaceous Period, 84 to 65 mya.**
- megaraptors possessed **strong arms that wielded sickle-like claws** that could inflict fatal wounds on prey, along with a more **lightly built skull and jaws studded with smaller teeth.**
- They also had **air-filled, bird-like bones.**

- Megaraptor was about **25–26 feet (7.5–8 meters) long**.
- Incomplete Megaraptor remains were found in 1996 in Northwest Patagonia, Argentina, by paleontologist Fernando E. Novas. Novas named it in 1998.

Cretaceous Period:

- The Cretaceous Period, in geologic time, is the **last of the three periods of the Mesozoic Era**.
- The Cretaceous **began 145.0 million years ago and ended 66 million years ago**.
- It **followed the Jurassic Period** and was succeeded by the Paleogene Period.

What is a Theropod?

- This group includes all the known **carnivorous dinosaurs** as well as the birds.
- They have a **carnivorous dentition and large, recurved claws** on the fingers.
- They have a **distinctive joint in the lower jaw**.

Patagonian Region:

- It is a sparsely populated region **located at the southern end of South America, shared by Argentina and Chile**.
- The region **comprises the southern section of the Andes mountains** as well as the deserts, steppes and grasslands **east of this southern portion of the Andes**.
- Patagonia has two coasts; a western one towards the Pacific Ocean and an eastern one towards the Atlantic Ocean.

26TH NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

Why in news?

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated this year's National Youth Festival at Hubballi, Karnataka on 12th January on the occasion of birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

National Youth Festival

- The National Youth Festival in India is an annual gathering of youth with various activities including competitive ones.

- Celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of youth icon Swami Vivekananda, it is organized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with one of the State Governments.
- Thus, it is held in a different state each year during National Youth Week, 12 to 16 January every year.
- Swami Vivekananda's birthday on January 12 is always celebrated as National Youth Day and the week commencing from that day is known as the National Youth Week.
- The activities held during the festival include competitive and non-competitive cultural events, martial arts, exhibitions, intellectual discourses, young artists camps, seminars and adventure programmes.
- The presentation of National Youth Awards also takes place.

Aim

- The youth festival aims to propagate the concept of national integration, spirit of communal harmony, brotherhood, courage and adventure amongst the youth by exhibiting their cultural prowess in a common platform.
- This is done by organizing gatherings of youth across the country and encouraging them to take part in different activities.
- This festival also provides a nationwide exposure to the youth for the expression and fulfilment of their cultural talents and aspirations.

News Summary: 26th National Youth Festival

- The 26th National Youth Festival has been inaugurated by PM Modi at Hubballi- Dharwad, Karnataka.
- Theme of the festival this year is 'Viksit Yuva Viksit Bharat'.

Key highlights of the speech delivered by PM Modi

- Describing the youth of the nation as 'Yuva Shakthi', he said that Yuva Shakthi's aspirations will decide its destination and its passion will decide India's path.

- PM Modi stressed that there was great optimism in the world towards India and its youth. Global industries are looking towards India.
 - He termed it as a historic moment when optimism and opportunity were coming together.
 - To ensure that the 21st century is India's century, he urged the youth to think 10 steps ahead.
 - PM Modi advised the youth to take lessons from Swami Vivekananda to forge ahead in life, with the key being the advice that there were three phases for any new idea — **“ridicule”**, **“opposition”** and **“acceptance”**.
 - Even in Sports, India is going ahead towards becoming a major global power. This is becoming possible due to the capability of the youth of India.
 - The Prime Minister praised the woman power of the country and said that the daughters are **“scaling heights in every field”**.
 - Today women of India are flying fighter jets, joining the army. They are scaling heights in every field like science, technology and space.
 - It is an announcement that India is moving towards its goal with full force.
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