REGULATING DIGITAL CONTENT - NEED FOR A NEW LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Concerns Over Digital Content Regulation:

- **The Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry** stated that the Supreme Court, multiple High Courts (HCs), MPs, and statutory bodies like the National Commission for Women have raised concerns regarding harmful content.

- **For example,** the SC granted Ranveer Allahbadia protection from arrest but strongly criticized his comments.

- The ministry acknowledges **increasing public demand for stricter laws** against harmful content on digital platforms, and is **currently assessing** the need for amendments or a new legal framework.

Existing Legal Framework:

- The I&B Ministry has been **reviewing statutory provisions** and considering the need for a new regulatory framework.

- **Existing regulations include:**

  - **The Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code (IT Rules, 2021):** Mandate self-regulation and content classification.

  - **Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986:** Prohibits obscene depiction of women.

  - **Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023:** Contains provisions against obscene content.

  - **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act:** Protects children from exposure to harmful content.

  - **Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000:** Addresses publication of obscene or pornographic material.

- **Recent government directives include:**

  - The I&B Ministry has asked social media channels and OTT platforms -

    - To follow the **Code of Ethics** prescribed in the IT Rules 2021, and

- ▪ Implement "**access control for A-rated content**" to prevent children from consuming inappropriate material.
  - o The OTT platforms **must not transmit any prohibited content** and undertake age-based classification of content.

Government's Response to Concerns Over Digital Content Regulation:

- **The Standing Committee** on Communications and Information Technology has sought clarification on necessary amendments to existing laws.
- The Ministry of Electronics and IT has been asked to **assess the efficacy of existing laws** and propose amendments to the **IT Act, 2000.**

Challenges in Regulation:

- OTT platforms and social media currently lack a clear regulatory framework.
- **The IT Rules, 2021**, require **a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism**:
  - o **Level 1:** Self-regulation by the platform.
  - o **Level 2:** Industry-wide self-regulation.
  - o **Level 3:** Government oversight.
- This mechanism has been challenged in various HCs, with the Bombay and Madras HCs staying its enforcement.
- The Kerala HC has restrained coercive action over non-compliance with (Part III of) the IT Rules 2021.
- Over 15 petitions have been filed against these rules, and the SC has transferred all cases to the Delhi HC for a consolidated hearing.

The Role of YouTube and Social Media Intermediaries:

- **YouTube** is regulated under the IT Rules but is not liable for user-generated content unless it violates government directives.
- Unlike traditional publishers, YouTube functions as a social media intermediary and has **limited accountability** for content uploaded by individual users.
- New media services like OTT platforms and YouTube currently **operate without a specific regulatory framework**, increasing demands for legal amendments.

BHARAT TECH TRIUMPH PROGRAM

Recently, to support the India's gaming industry growth the Bharat Tech Triumph Program (TTP) has been launched as part of the Create in India Challenge Season 1.

- It aims to identify and showcase India's **gaming talent on the international stage.**

- It is organized by the **Interactive Entertainment and Innovation Council** (IEIC) in partnership with the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** (MIB) the program

- A diverse range of participants from the interactive entertainment industry including **developers, studios, startups, and tech companies** can participate in this programme.

- This initiative is **open to individuals and organizations** involved in **gaming development, sports and business solutions** critical to the gaming ecosystem.

- **Evaluation criteria:** The evaluation criteria for the Bharat Tech Triumph Program focus on assessing key aspects of your **product, pitch and team** to determine its potential for success.

- Winners of this Program will have an incredible opportunity to showcase their products, intellectual property and technology on a global stage.

- They'll be fully sponsored to present their innovations at the prestigious **Game Developers Conference** (GDC) 2025 in San Francisco and later **at WAVES in India.**

BAY OF BENGAL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

Recently, India assumed chairmanship of Bay of Bengal (BOB) Inter-Governmental Organisation from Bangladesh at the 13th Governing Council Meeting at Malé, Maldives.

- It was set **up in 2003.**
- It is a **unique regional fisheries body,** specifically mandated to assist the member countries in increasing the livelihood opportunities and improving the quality of life of the small-scale/ artisanal fisher folk in the Bay of Bengal region.
- The Organisation evolved from the erstwhile **Bay of Bengal Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization** (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) founded in 1979.
- It has set international benchmarks in execution of programs and activities in the field of small-scale fisheries that has translated into measurable benefits for the member countries.
- **Member Countries:** The current members of the Organisation are **Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka** while **Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar** and **Thailand** are **cooperating non-contracting parties.**
- **Objective of Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation:**
  - To increase **awareness and knowledge** of the needs, benefits and practices of **marine fisheries management;**
  - Enhance skills through training and education; transfer appropriate technologies and techniques for development of the small-scale fisheries; establish regional information networking; and
  - promote women's participation in marine fisheries value chain.
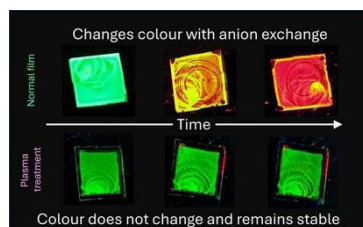
PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX

Recently, India's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose for first time after three quarters.

- It is an indicator of business activity - both in the **manufacturing and services sectors.**
- It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from the month before.

- It is calculated separately for the **manufacturing and services sectors** and then **a composite index is constructed.**

- The index helps in determining whether the market conditions, as seen by purchasing managers, is expanding, contracting or staying the same.

- There are two types of PMI — **Manufacturing PMI and Services PMI.**

- **How is the manufacturing PMI derived?**

  o It is derived by sending fact-based questions to a large number of companies in the concerned sector.

  o The questions are **related to 5 key variables**— new orders, output employment, suppliers' delivery times and stock of items purchased

  o The surveys are conducted on a **monthly basis**.

  o A PMI number **greater than 50 indicates expansion** in business activity.

  o A number **less than 50 shows contraction**. The rate of expansion is also judged by the difference from the mid-point (50) and also by previous month's data.

- PMI data for India is **released by S&P Global**, a global major in financial information and analytics.

PEROVSKITE NANOCRYSTAL

Changes colour with anion exchange
Normal film
← Time →
Plasma treatment
Colour does not change and remains stable

Recently, researchers at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) in Bengaluru have developed an innovative method to minimize anion migration in $CsPbX_3$ perovskite nanocrystals.

- It is a material that has **the same crystal structure** as the mineral calcium **titanium oxide (CaTiO3).**

- Generally, perovskite compounds have a **chemical formula ABX3**, where 'A' and 'B' represent **cations**, and X is **an anion** that bonds to both.

- A large number of different elements can be combined together to form perovskite structures.
- Due to its compositional flexibility, scientists can design perovskite crystals to have a wide variety of **physical, optical and electrical characteristics** from insulating, semiconducting, metallic and superconducting characteristics.
- **Applications of Perovskite Nanocrystal:**
  - They have applications in various fields of **optoelectronics, including photovoltaic solar cells**, photodetectors, **light-emitting devices,**
  - Perovskite LEDs, which combine the advantages of OLEDs and QLEDs, have long been considered a promising technology **for next-generation lighting**.

ASPERGER'S SYNDROME

Recently, on the occasion of International Asperger's Day, the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NIEPID) organized various programmes to raise awareness and promote inclusivity for individuals with Asperger's Syndrome.

- It is a **neurodevelopmental disorder** within the family of autism spectrum disorder.
- It is characterized by **impaired social communication and interaction**, average or superior intelligence, and no significant language delay.
- It was **first described by Hans Asperger in 1944** as the behavioral characterization of individuals with difficulties in communication and social interaction.
- **Symptoms of Asperger Syndrome:**
  - The symptoms of Asperger Syndrome typically manifest in **early childhood and can persist into adulthood.**

- o These symptoms often vary in severity and can include: **Social Difficulties**, Repetitive Behaviors, Communication Challenges, **Motor Coordination Difficulties.**

- o It also includes engaging in one-sided, long-winded conversations, without noticing if the listener is listening or trying to change the subject and displaying unusual nonverbal communication, such as lack of eye contact, few facial expressions, or awkward body postures and gestures.

- **Causes of Asperger Syndrome:** Doctors and researchers do not understand what causes Asperger's syndrome.

- **Treatment:** The core signs of Asperger's syndrome can't be cured. But most children benefit from early specialised interventions that focus on **behavior management and social skills training**.

CONTROVERSY AROUND THREE-LANGUAGE POLICY

Three-Language Formula in NEP 2020

- NEP 2020 retains the three-language formula, originally introduced in the 1968 NEP.

- However, unlike the earlier policy, which mandated Hindi across India, NEP 2020 provides more flexibility without imposing any specific language on States.

- **Language Flexibility and Choice**

  - o The policy allows States, regions, and students to choose the three languages, ensuring that at least two are native to India.

  - o This means non-Hindi-speaking States are not necessarily required to adopt Hindi.

- **Emphasis on Bilingual Education**

  - o NEP 2020 promotes bilingual teaching, encouraging instruction in the home language/mother tongue along with English.

- **Role of Sanskrit**

- o The policy highlights Sanskrit as an optional language within the three-language framework, giving it special emphasis.

Opposition to this policy in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu has a long history of resisting the imposition of Hindi.
- In 1937, the Justice Party opposed the Rajaji-led Madras government's attempt to make Hindi compulsory in schools.
  - o Protests led to the deaths of two activists, Thalamuthu and Natarajan, and the policy was eventually withdrawn.

- **1965 Anti-Hindi Agitation**
  - o In 1965, violent protests erupted in Tamil Nadu against making Hindi the sole official language, resulting in at least 70 deaths.
  - o The unrest resurfaced in 1968 when the Parliament mandated Hindi teaching under the three-language formula.

- **Dravidian Movement's Stand**
  - o In 1968, the DMK government under C.N. Annadurai passed a resolution rejecting the three-language formula, reinforcing Tamil Nadu's two-language policy of Tamil and English.
  - o Since then, successive governments have opposed any changes to this policy.

- **Recent Opposition and Policy Adjustments**
  - o In 2019, strong resistance from Tamil Nadu led to the removal of mandatory Hindi learning from the draft NEP proposed by the Kasturirangan Committee.
  - o The State continues to uphold its two-language system, resisting any attempts to introduce Hindi in schools.

Perceived Imposition of Hindi

- Political parties and activists in Tamil Nadu see the three-language policy as a covert attempt to impose Hindi.
- They argue that practical constraints, such as the lack of resources for additional language teachers, would naturally lead to Hindi being the default third language.

PALAMU TIGER RESERVE (PTR)

For the first time in Jharkhand, the tiger which had vacated its haunt in the Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) and wandered off into the Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary in Jharkhand and West Bengal's Purulia a few months back will be brought back to its native territory

- It is located in the Chhota Nagpur plateau region of **Jharkhand**.
- The reserve forms a **part of the Betla National Park.**
- It is one of the first 9 tiger reserves created in the country at the inception of 'Project Tiger'.
- It is the **first reserve in the world in which a tiger census was carried out as a pugmark count,** as early as 1932 under the supervision of J.W. Nicholson
- Three rivers namely **North Koyal, Auranga and Burha** flow through the valleys of the PTR.
- The area is drought-prone with Burha being the only perennial river.
- The Reserve is very rich in minerals like **Bauxite and Coal.**
- **Vegetation**:
  - It is primarily dominated by **Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous, Sal Forest** and its associates.
  - Smaller patches of **Northern tropical Moist Deciduous forests** exist too in the Reserve.
- **Flora:** Shorea robusta, Acacia catechu, Madhuca indica, Terminalia tomentosa, Butea monosperma, Pterocarpus marsupium, Anogeisus latifolia, Indigofera pulchela,
- **Fauna:** Some keystone and principal species found in the reserve include **Tiger, Asiatic Elephant, Leopard, Grey wolf,** Wild dog, Gaur, Sloth bear and four horned antelope.