

### TIANGONG SPACE STATION

China recently launched the Shenzhou-17 spacecraft, carrying the country's youngest-ever crew to the Tiangong Space Station.



#### About the Tiangong Space Station:

- Tiangong (Chinese for "Heavenly Palace") is a **modular space station** being constructed by the China National Space Administration (CNSA).
- It is the **first space station built by China**.
- Tiangong is **currently in low Earth orbit (LEO)**, and it is expected to be operational until 2028.
- It is a **three-module space station**. The core module, Tianhe, launched in April 2021, followed by the Wentian and Mengtian experiment modules in 2022.
- Tiangong is significantly **smaller and lighter than the International Space Station (ISS)**, with only **three modules compared to the ISS's 16 modules**.
- It can **accommodate up to three astronauts at a time for six-month stays**. It can also support **six astronauts at a time during crew handovers**.
- The station will **have its own power, propulsion, life support systems, and living quarters**.
- The new space station is **planned to share its orbit with the Xuntian space telescope to allow astronauts to easily repair and upgrade the telescope**.
- China is **only the third country to have put both astronauts into space and build a space station**, after the Soviet Union (now Russia) and the US.

#### Why does China have its own space station?

- **China is excluded from the ISS programme**, largely due to **U.S. concerns** over the Chinese space programs' links with the People's Liberation Army.
- **In 2011, the US Congress prohibited NASA from cooperating substantially with its Chinese counterpart** without express prior authorization.
- **This law, known as the Wolf Amendment, makes it very difficult for China to participate in the ISS programme**, if the nation even wishes to do so.

## TRANSFER OF PROPERTY ACT, 1882 (TPA)

The Supreme Court recently held that rents receivable by a borrower can be assigned to a lender as an "actionable claim" as per the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 (TPA).



### About the Transfer of Property Act, 1882:

- The TPA is an important piece of legislation that governs the transfer of property between living beings (inter vivos) in India.
- The TPA primarily applies to a transfer of immovable property; however, some sections and clauses of this Act deal with a transfer of movable property as well.
- This Act was first introduced in 1882 and has undergone several amendments since then.
- It outlines the various modes of required transfer and the legal requirements to ensure the transfer is valid.
- The Act applies to all citizens of India who are involved in the transfer.

### What is the Transfer of Property?

- According to the law, the transfer of property is defined as the act of a living person transferring property to one or more living persons, either presently or in the future.
- This definition also encompasses companies, associations, or groups of individuals.

### What Does 'Transfer' Mean Under the TPA?

- The TPA considers the term "transfer" to include various modes such as sale, mortgage, lease, actionable claim, gift, or exchange.
- However, it does not apply to transfers that occur through the operation of law, such as inheritance, forfeiture, insolvency, or sale through a decree's execution.
- Additionally, the Act does not govern property disposal through wills or cases related to the succession of the property.

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## SATELLITE INTERNET TECHNOLOGY

Recently, Reliance Jio announced that it had successfully demonstrated India's first satellite-based gigabit internet service.



### About Satellite internet technology:

- Satellite Internet works similarly to satellite TV.
- It begins with an **internet service provider** sending satellites into space to orbit around the earth.
- That ISP then relies on a signal routed through one of those satellites **in low- or high-Earth orbit** and a receiver dish that picks up that signal.
- The receiver is typically placed on your home or business in a spot with as much unobstructed access to the sky as possible.
- You'll connect a modem to that dish to translate the incoming signal into a workable internet connection.
- The more common method of delivering high-speed satellite internet usually **involves constellations of low-Earth orbit (LEO)** satellites.
- LEO satellites orbit at a height of between **250 and 2,000 kilometres above the planet**.
- The satellite that orbits the Earth **communicates using radio waves**.

### Advantages

- The most ideal internet access is for users who live in rural areas or live far away from cities or cable or phone offices.
- It uses **satellite dish for the two-way communication** and does not need telephone cables or lines.
- Compared to other internet options, there are fewer or negligible network outages in case of satellite internet.



### RASHTRIYA GOKUL MISSION

The Gir indigenous cow breed is being promoted under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

## About the Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- It has been implemented for the development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds since December 2014.
- It is continued under the umbrella scheme Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana from 2021 to 2026.
- **Objectives**
  - To enhance **the productivity of bovines** and increase milk production in a sustainable manner using advanced technologies.
  - To propagate the use of **high genetic merit bulls for breeding purposes**.
  - To enhance **artificial insemination** coverage through strengthening the breeding network and delivery of Artificial insemination services at farmers' doorstep.
  - To **promote indigenous cattle & buffalo** rearing and conservation in a scientific and holistic manner.

## About Gir Cow:

- It is an excellent dairy cattle breed well-known among milk producers.
- It is known for its milk producing ability, good fertility, heat tolerance, easy maintenance, resistance to diseases, and longevity.
- The name of the breed is derived from its **place of origin, the “Gir” forest of Gujarat**.
- It has the ability to adapt to the entire central belt and northern and southern stretches.

## SARAS AAJEEVIKA MELA

Recently, the union Minister of State for Rural Development, Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution inaugurated the popular SARAS Mela Gurugram.



## About Saras Aajeevika Mela:

- It is an initiative by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of Ministry of Rural Development.

- **Aim:** To bring the rural women Self Help Group members under one platform to showcase their skills, sell their products, and help them build linkages with potential market players.
- It is organised by the **Ministry of Rural Development** and **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)**

## Key facts about DAY-NRLM

- It is a **flagship rural poverty alleviation program** of the Government of India.
- It addresses multiple dimensions of The programme aims to reach out to 10 Crore rural poor households and organise one woman member from each rural household into affinity-based women SHGs.
- These SHGs provide close, long-term handholding support to their members, enabling them to **access financial services** from banks, diversify and stabilise their livelihoods, and effectively access their entitlements with ease.
- **Objective:** To ensure that each family is able to **achieve household food security** and have more than **one stabilised livelihood source**.
  - The Mission seeks to achieve its objective through investing in four core components, viz.,
  - Social mobilisation, promotion, and strengthening of self-managed and financially sustainable community institutions for the rural poor.
  - Financial inclusion of the rural poor
  - Sustainable livelihoods; and
  - Social inclusion, social development, and convergence

## INDIA-MALDIVES BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP



### Why in the News?

- Maldives has started discussion with India for the removal of the latter's military presence in the region.

### India – Maldives Bilateral Relationship:

- India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links and enjoy close, cordial and multi-dimensional relations.

- India was among the first to recognise Maldives after its independence in 1965 and to establish diplomatic relations with the country.

### **Maldives' Strategic Significance for India:**

- Maldives' proximity to the west coast of India (it is barely 70 nautical miles away from Minicoy).
- The country is situated at the hub of commercial sea-lanes running through the **Indian Ocean**.
- Also, it has the potential to allow a third nation's naval presence, for example China, in the area.

### **Political Relations:**

- Bilateral relations have been nurtured and strengthened by regular contacts at the highest levels.
- India's prompt assistance during the 1988 coup attempt, led to development of trust and long-term and friendly bilateral relations with the Maldives.
- Under **Operation Cactus** the Indian Armed Forces helped the Government of Maldives in the neutralization of the coup attempt.
- '**India First**' has been a stated policy of the Government of Maldives.
- On international issues Maldives has consistently supported India in multilateral fora, such as the UN, the Commonwealth, the NAM (Non-Alignment Movement) and the SAARC (South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation).

### **Bilateral Trade:**

- India and Maldives signed a trade agreement in 1981, which provides for export of essential commodities.
- Growing from modest beginnings, India-Maldives bilateral trade in 2020 stood at **US\$ 213.91 million** with trade balance heavily in favour of India.
- State Bank of India has been playing a vital role in the economic development of the Maldives since 1974 by providing loan assistance for promotion of island resorts, export of marine products and business enterprises.

### **Defence Cooperation:**

- India provides the largest number of training opportunities for Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF), meeting around 70% of their defence training requirements.
- A Comprehensive Action Plan for Defence was also signed in April 2016 to consolidate defence partnership.

### Indian Community:

- Indians are the second largest expatriate community in Maldives with an approximate strength of around 22,000.
- About 25% of Doctors and Teachers in Maldives are Indian nationals.

### Tourism:

- Tourism directly accounts for about quarter of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Maldives and indirectly for a much larger proportion of GDP.
- India remained the top market for Maldives tourism in 2022 dominating over 14% with **240,000 arrivals**.

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## DARK PATTERN SALES DEEMED CYBERCRIME

### Why in news?

- Many people have complained about airlines and online travel websites tricking them into buying things they did not mean to, for example seats, when booking flights.
  - A government official even called it a cybercrime.
- Because of these complaints, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has told the low-cost airline IndiGo to fix its website.
- This has, once again, highlighted the menace of dark patterns. A government official even called it a cybercrime.

### What are Dark Patterns?

- Dark patterns refer to **deceptive design techniques** used in user interfaces to manipulate or deceive users into taking certain actions or making specific choices online.
- Such patterns are unethical user interface designs that deliberately make Internet experience harder or even exploit the users.

- These patterns exploit cognitive biases and behavioural tendencies to trick or mislead users, often for the benefit of the platform or business implementing them.
- These tricks can include creating a false sense of urgency, making people feel bad for not doing something, forcing them to take certain actions, trapping them into subscriptions, or constantly bothering them.

## How do companies use dark patterns?

- Social media companies and Big Tech firms such as Apple, Amazon, Skype, Facebook, LinkedIn, Microsoft, and Google use dark or deceptive patterns to downgrade the user experience to their advantage.

SPOTTING DARK PATTERNS	
<p>■ <b>FALSE URGENCY</b> Falsely implying a sense of urgency to mislead a user into making an immediate purchase or taking an immediate action</p> <p>■ <b>BASKET SNEAKING</b> Inclusion of additional items at the time of checkout without consent</p> <p>■ <b>CONFIRM SHAMING</b> Creating fear, shame or guilt to nudge the user to purchase a product</p> <p>■ <b>FORCED ACTION</b> Forcing a user into taking an action that would require them to buy additional good(s) or subscribe or sign up for an unrelated service, in order to get the the product originally intended</p> <p>■ <b>SUBSCRIPTION TRAP</b> Making cancellation of a paid subscription impossible or complex and hiding the cancellation option, among others</p>	<p>■ <b>INTERFACE INTERFERENCE</b> Manipulating user interface in ways that highlights certain specific information and obscures others. A common example is designing a light-coloured option for selecting 'no' in response to a pop-up</p> <p>■ <b>BAIT AND SWITCH</b> Advertising a particular outcome based on user action but serving an alternate outcome</p> <p>■ <b>DRIP PRICING</b> Elements of prices are not revealed upfront or are revealed surreptitiously</p> <p>■ <b>DISGUISED ADS</b> Masking advertisements other types of content such as user generated content or news articles.</p> <p>■ <b>NAGGING</b> Users facing overload of unrelated requests, information, options or interruptions</p>

- **Amazon**
  - It came under fire in the EU for its confusing, multi-step cancellation process for the Amazon Prime subscription.
- **LinkedIn**
  - LinkedIn users often receive unsolicited, sponsored messages from influencers.
  - Disabling this option is a difficult process with multiple steps that requires users to be familiar with the platform controls.

## REMEDY WORSE THAN MALAISE: STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN PRIVACY AND SECURITY IS A DIFFICULT CHALLENGE

### Context

- Politics and misinformation have been interconnected for a long time and with elections around the corner, **addressing political misinformation will remain a policy priority.**
- Amidst complexities surrounding political misinformation, **it is important to focus on the potential consequences and controversies associated with Rule 4(2) of the 2021 Information Technology (IT) Intermediary Guidelines**, which seeks to counter the growing problem of political deep fakes.



## Why is Misinformation a Cause of Concern?

- **Rising Fake Synthetic Media in Politics:** Misinformation in politics is nothing new, but recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) have made it easier to create convincing deep fake images, videos, and voices.
- **Synthetic Media Can Influence Voter's Actions:** These synthetic media pieces can be employed both intentionally and maliciously, posing a significant risk by potentially misleading users and influencing their actions, particularly in the context of elections.

## Steps Under Consideration by the Government to Counter Misinformation

- The central government is planning to **rely on the Rule 4(2) of the 2021 IT Intermediary Guidelines** to counter political deep fakes.
- **The Rule 4(2) demands** that all significant social media messaging entities **must have the capability to identify the first originator** of the information on their platform.
- Originator requests can then **be invoked either under a court order or by the government using its powers to intercept, monitor or decrypt information.**

## WhatsApp vs. Union of India (2021)

- **WhatsApp Inc. and Facebook have filed two separate petitions** in the HC of Delhi **challenging the Rule 4(2).**
- The petitions state that the provision breaks end-to-end encryption and undermines the fundamental right to privacy.
- **It is violative of the law laid down in K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India (2017)** and goes against the principles of proportionality, necessity, and minimisation.
- **Recent Tripura HC Order**
  - **It recently stayed an order demanding the origin of a fake resignation letter** by the state's CM from WhatsApp.
  - This was on the ground that the **trial court had not established the threat to public order while making the order.**