

IN-SPACe

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the headquarters of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) at Bopal, Ahmedabad.



About:

The establishment of IN-SPACe was announced in June 2020.

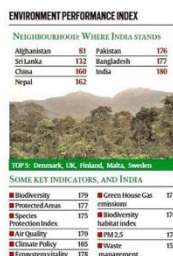
It is an autonomous and single window nodal agency in the Department of Space for the promotion, encouragement and regulation of space activities of both government and private entities. It also facilitates the usage of ISRO facilities by private entities.

- The programme also witnessed the exchange of MoUs between IN-SPACe and private sector companies working in the field of space-based applications and services.

Do you know?

- The Prime Minister expressed happiness that Gujarat is fast becoming a centre of big institutions of national and international level. He listed WHO Global Centre of Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar, Rashtriya Raskhsa University, Pandit Deendayal Energy University, National Innovation Foundation, Children's University, Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and geoinformatics-BISAG and, now, IN-SPACe.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX



The newly released Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022, measured by Yale and Columbia universities, ranks India at the bottom position among 180 countries.

About:

- The EPI is an international ranking system of countries based on their environmental health.
- It is a biennial index, first started in 2002 as the Environment Sustainability Index by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and Columbia University Center for International Earth Information Network.
- EPI 2022 uses 40 performance indicators to assess and rank 180 countries. The 40 indicators are under the broad categories of climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality.

How poor is the EPI assessment of India?

- With a rank of 180 and a score of 18.9, India has fallen from rank 168 and a score of 27.6 in 2020. India comes after Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Myanmar, the poorest performers. Denmark tops the list with a score of 77.9.
- The Environment Ministry of India has issued a rebuttal saying the indicators used in the assessment are based on “unfounded assumptions”.

ANCOVAX

The Agriculture Ministry unveiled India’s first Covid-19 vaccine for animals.



About:

Developed by the Hisar-based National Research Centre on Equines, the vaccine, called Ancovax, can protect animals against the Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.

- Ancovax can be used in dogs, lions, leopards, mice, and rabbits. It is an inactivated vaccine developed using an infectious part of the Delta variant. In addition, it uses Alhydrogel as an adjuvant to boost the immune response.

- This is the first Covid-19 vaccine for animals developed in India.
-

COAL USE TO BE BANNED IN NCR

The use of coal as a fuel will be banned across the National Capital Region (NCR) from January 1, 2023, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said.



About:

Once the ban is in force, coal can no longer be used for industrial or domestic purposes, but thermal power plants will be exempted from the ban. From October 1, 2022 onward, a ban on coal use will be applicable in areas where PNG infrastructure and supply is already available.

- The move is meant to phase out the use of coal as a fuel to deal with concerns of air pollution across the NCR.
 - According to a study done by The Energy and Resources Institute in 2018, within the 30 per cent contribution of the industrial sector in PM2.5 level in winter in Delhi, industries using coal, biomass, pet-coke and furnace oil contributed around 14 per cent, while 8 per cent was contributed by the brick manufacturing sector, 6 per cent by power stations, and 2 per cent by stone crushers.
-

GOVT CRACKS WHIP ON MISLEADING ADS

In News:

- To protect people from being exploited or affected by misleading advertisements, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has notified new guidelines for stopping them across all platforms — regardless of form, format or medium – and has put a complete ban on surrogate advertising.

About Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):

- The CCPA is a **statutory body** constituted under Section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- **Mandate:** To protect the rights of the consumer by cracking down on unfair trade practices, and false and misleading advertisements that are detrimental to the interests of the public and consumers.
- Concerned Ministry: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Powers & Functions of CCPA:

- To recall goods or withdrawal of services that are “dangerous, hazardous or unsafe”;
- Pass an order for refund the prices of goods or services so recalled to purchasers of such goods or services;
- Discontinuation of practices which are unfair and prejudicial to consumer’s interest;
- Impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/publishers of misleading advertisements.

Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and seeks to widen its scope in addressing consumer concerns.
- The new Act recognises offences such as providing false information regarding the quality or quantity of a good or service, and misleading advertisements.
- It also specifies action to be taken if goods and services are found “dangerous, hazardous or unsafe”.
- The Act came into force in July 2020 and it will empower consumers and help them in protecting their rights through its various notified rules and provisions.

News Summary:

- Recently, the Central government has notified stricter norms related to mass advertising in print, television and social media under the Consumer Protection Authority (Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Necessary Due Diligence for Endorsement of Advertisements) Guidelines 2022.

Major Highlights of the guidelines include:

- Accountability of Celebrities:

'ENDORSERS NEED TO DO DUE DILIGENCE'		
Misleading advertisements are those, which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Falsely describes a product or service > Gives a false guarantee to, or likely to mislead the consumers > Deliberately conceals important information 	Bait advertisements: Where goods, products or services are offered for sale at low prices to attract consumers	Surrogate or indirect advertising: Advertisements for goods, products or services whose advertisement is prohibited by law
Free claims advertisements: Only those where consumers need to pay only for collecting or paying for delivery of items		
WHAT'S BANNED		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Misleading & surrogate advertisements > Advertisements that condone or encourage practices detrimental to children's physical or mental wellbeing > Claims that consumption of a product helps enhancing physical or mental ability 	without valid scientific evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Advertisements targeting children that develop negative body image > Advertisements giving impression that advertised products are better than natural or traditional food 	
DISCLAIMERS BY MANUFACTURERS & ADVERTISERS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Disclaimers must be in same language & font size as the main ads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > In audio-visual ads, voice over must be clear & not quick ones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Owners/ promoter in companies need to disclose their stake
Responsibility of endorsers: Endorsers need to do due diligence to gain adequate information of the product		

Celebrities endorsing products or services can be held responsible and face action for appearing in misleading promotions.

Celebrities endorsing misleading ads can be fined up to ₹10 lakh by the consumer protection authority.

For repeat offences, the authority can impose a fine of up to ₹50 lakh and a jail term of up to five years.

These guidelines come at a time when several popular actors and top cricketers have been endorsing gaming and gambling apps, and chewing tobacco.

Set Criteria:

- An advertisement will be considered non-misleading and valid only when it meets a set of criteria laid down in the new rules.
- These include “truthful representations” that don’t “exaggerate accuracy, scientific validity or practical usefulness or capability or performance”.
- Ban on Surrogate Advertising:



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- The new guidelines ban surrogate advertising, a practice where a seller promotes a product whose advertisement is not allowed by disguising it as another product.
 - Liquor ads commonly indulge in such practices — under the guise of selling soda, CDs, and even holiday packages.
 - Ban on certain advertisements for children:
 - An advertisement for junk foods, including chips, carbonated beverages and such other snacks and drinks shall not be advertised during a programme meant for children or on a channel meant exclusively for children.
-

