



Current Affairs of the Day

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- NPR slips valid for long-term visas: MHA

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- Govt. keen on implementing labour codes
- 'New IT rules only to tackle misuse of social media, offer redressal forum'



NPR slips valid for long-term visas: MHA

1. Migrants belonging to six non-Muslim minority communities from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, while applying for long-term visas (LTVs), can also produce National Population Register (NPR) enrolment slips as proof of the duration of their stay in India, according to a Union Home Ministry manual.
2. The NPR number is part of an illustrative list of more than 10 documents that could be provided to apply for an LTV, which is a precursor to acquiring Indian citizenship either by naturalisation or registration under Section 5 and 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, for the six communities — Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists — from the three countries.
3. The special provision of LTVs for Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan and Afghanistan was first made in 2011.

National Population Register (NPR)

1. The NPR was first compiled in 2010 simultaneously with the decadal Census exercise and later updated in 2015. It already has a database of 119 crore residents.
2. The NPR is a register of usual residents linked with location particulars down to the village level and is updated periodically “to incorporate the changes due to birth, death and migration”.
3. The next phase of the NPR, expected to include contentious questions on date and place of birth of father and mother, last place of residence and mother tongue, was to be simultaneously updated with the 2021 House Listing and Housing Census that has been indefinitely postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. According to detailed guidelines issued by the Home Ministry on documents that can be produced to prove the date of entry of the minority community migrants currently in India, the “slip issued by the Census enumerators” during the survey for the preparation of the NPR prior to December 31, 2014, can be provided.
5. Migrants who can apply for LTVs will have to produce any document issued by the governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan “clearly



showing the religion of the applicant like school certificate etc. to establish that the applicant is from a minority community”, the guidelines said.

6. As reported, the Home Ministry has been sensitising the States about the relevant provisions under the Citizenship Act, 1955, which could help the six communities who entered India on legal documents before 2014 and are here on LTVs, expedite their citizenship applications.
7. Ministry officials assert that the awareness drive is not related to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA), which is intended to benefit undocumented migrants from the six groups who entered India before the 2014 cut-off date. The CAA is yet to implement.

Govt. keen on implementing labour codes

1. The four labour codes are likely to see the light of day in a couple of months as the Centre is now keen on going ahead with the implementation of these laws, which, among others, will result in a reduction in the take-home pay of employees and a higher provident fund liability for the companies.
2. The Labour Ministry had envisaged implementing the four codes on industrial relations, wages, social security and occupational health safety and working conditions from April 1, 2021. These four labour codes will rationalise 44 Central labour laws.
3. Labour is on the Concurrent List of the Constitution and, therefore, both the Centre and the States have to notify rules under these four codes to make them the laws of the land in their respective jurisdictions.
4. Under the new wages code, allowances are capped at 50%. This means half of the gross pay of an employee would be basic wages. Provident fund contribution is calculated as a percentage of the basic wage.

‘New IT rules only to tackle misuse of social media, offer redressal forum’

1. With Twitter and WhatsApp up in arms against the government’s new guidelines for social media platforms, Information Technology and Law Minister said these guidelines are to deal with the issue of misuse of such platforms.



2. He stressed that these rules only give a redressal mechanism to users, with complaints to be handled between the users and the social media intermediary. The government is not involved.
3. On the issue of tracing the originator of WhatsApp messages, the Minister said ordinary users of the platform have nothing to fear.

Compliance Officers

1. Some social media firms have raised concerns over the clause related to employees being jailed under the new Rules
2. As per Rule 4(A), social media platforms need to appoint a chief compliance officer who shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and the rules thereunder and shall be liable in any proceeding relating to third-party information where he/she fails to make sure that due diligence was followed by the intermediary.
3. The failure to observe due diligence is a precondition for starting an action. The Rules add that no liability will be imposed upon the significant social media intermediary without being granted an opportunity to be heard. So, all safeguards are there.
4. Similarly, removal of content is also preceded by precondition. Intermediaries shall remove or disable access within 24 hours of receipt of complaints of contents that expose private areas of individuals, show such individuals in full or partial nudity or in sexual acts or is in the nature of impersonation including morphed images, etc. Such a complaint can be filed either by the individual or by any other person on his/her behalf. For removal of content via government orders, there is already a process under Section 69(A) of the IT Act.

Will this issue impact India's image, particularly in terms of doing business?

1. Many companies have complied with the rules. This is not a question of the image of a country, these are the rights of the users against misuse. Any robust democracy which allows freedom of speech and expression must also allow a forum for redressal of complaints.
2. The Rules are very clear. They have to appoint India-based employees — a grievance redressal officer, compliance officer and a nodal officer to coordinate with the government. There will be no compromise on the digital sovereignty of India.



3. The government and WhatsApp have been at loggerheads over the issue of the originator of messages for over two years, and now they have gone to court, citing privacy concerns.

What's app under attack:

1. In their latest privacy policy, they are saying that users' data will be shared with business associates. WhatsApp has said they will wait till the personal data protection Bill comes with regards to their new privacy policy.
2. Google has sought protection against the IT rules saying it is a search engine and not an intermediary.
3. Let us not take shelter under technicalities. Protecting women dignity is a moral as well as social obligation of these social media firms.