

## Current Affairs of the Day

### '1,160 elephants killed in a decade'

1. A whopping 1,160 elephants were killed in the country for reasons other than natural causes in the 10 years up to December 31, 2020, according to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

#### Big loss

Figures provided by the Union Environment and Forest Ministry on the deaths of elephants across the country

Cause of death	No. of elephants killed*
Electrocution	741
Train hits	186
Poaching	169
Poisoning	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,160</b>

(\*2009-10 to December 31, 2020)



**Death on the tracks:** The carcass of one of the two tuskers run over by a train at Moinajan in Kamrup (Metro) district of Assam on Wednesday. Local people say the elephants entered the village to feed on paddy. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

2. While electrocution claimed the lives of 741 elephants, train hits led to the death of 186 pachyderms, followed by poaching (169) and poisoning (64).
3. Karnataka and Odisha lost 133 elephants each to electrocution during the period and Assam reported 129 deaths. Among elephant casualties due to train hits, Assam stood first with 62 deaths, followed by West Bengal at 57.
4. A total of 169 elephants were killed by poachers in the 10 years and Odisha reported the highest of 49, followed by Kerala 23. Assam reported the highest number of elephants poisoned, 32, and Odisha stood second with 15.
5. A Permanent Coordination Committee has been constituted between the Ministry of Railways and the MoEFCC for preventing elephant deaths due to train hits.
6. Activists said the Centre and the States together had greater responsibility in protecting elephants, a keystone species, and their habitats.



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## Jumbo in India:

1. The Ministry said in the document that India had a total of 29,964 wild elephants as per an estimate done in 2017.
2. The southern region comprising Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra accounted for the highest population — 14,612 elephants.

## Mammoth count

Table lists State-wise population estimates of elephants as per census conducted during 2017



State	Count	State	Count
Karnataka	6,049	Uttar Pradesh	232
Assam	5,719	Tripura	102
Kerala	5,706	Andhra Pradesh	65
Tamil Nadu	2,761	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25
Odisha	1,976	Bihar	25
Uttarakhand	1,839	Manipur	9
Meghalaya	1,754	Mizoram	7
Arunachal Pradesh	1,614	Madhya Pradesh	7
W.B. (north+south)	682	Haryana	7
Jharkhand	679	Himachal Pradesh	7
Nagaland	446	Maharashtra	6
Chhattisgarh	247		



## **‘Ensure code of ethics is followed on social media’**

Observing that social media platforms have placed journalism in the hands of citizens, a Parliamentary panel asked the Government to ensure a code of ethics is followed in the digital media space while preserving the right to freedom of expression.

### **Citizen journalists and code of ethics:**

1. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology in its 27th report on ‘Ethical Standards in Media Coverage’, presented in Parliament, impressed upon the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) “to ensure that adequate consultations take place with all stakeholders” and that monitoring of digital media may be exercised while fully preserving the right to freedom of expression.
2. The panel observed that social media platforms, such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and Twitter, have placed journalism in the hands of the citizens.
3. Citizens use their personal recording devices including cellphones to capture events and post them on the Internet, it noted.

### **OTT platforms**

1. The panel also considered the issue of unregulated content made available through online and OTT (over the top) platforms “which had hitherto escaped any architecture of regulation”.
2. “During the COVID pandemic, more and more people have resorted to these platforms due to closure of cinema halls. The committee is conscious that the information and content portrayed on such platforms can impact viewers, including minor children,” it said.
3. “At the same time, the committee acknowledges that OTT platforms offer freedom to the individual user to decide what to watch, a freedom that should not be abridged by the heavy hand of Government,” the panel said.
4. Referring to the latest ‘The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021’ notified this year, the panel said it hoped that the new rules and guidelines would go a “long way in ensuring transparency and accountability for social media platforms with a robust oversight mechanism by the government.”



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5. It is also hoped that the MIB along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology will work in tandem to ensure that the code for ethics is followed by digital media also.
6. The report said that any regulation must have checks and balances to ensure that it is neither misused nor violative of Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution.

## The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021

#CabinetDecisions

### The Information Technology

(Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code)  
Rules 2021 Announced by the Government of India

Salient Features related to Social Media 1/2

- Due Diligence to be Followed by Intermediaries
- Grievance Redressal Mechanism
- Ensuring Online Safety and Dignity of Users; Specially Women Users
- Two Categories of Social Media Intermediaries
- Additional Due Diligence to be Followed by Significant Social Media Intermediaries
- Removal of Unlawful Information

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology

Safeguarding Users' Rights, Ensuring Responsible Internet Freedom

### Govt Notifies IT Rules, 2021

(Intermediary Guidelines & Digital Media Ethics Code) (2/2)

Measures to be Ensured by Significant Social Media Intermediaries

Intermediary providing services primarily in the nature of messaging to enable identification of the first originator of the information required for prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution of an offence related to:

- ▶ Sovereignty & integrity of India, security of the State, relations with foreign States, or public order, incitement to an offence in relation with rape, sexually explicit material, etc. punishable with imprisonment for a term of 5 years
- ▶ Intermediary not required to disclose the contents of any message or any other information to the first originator
- ▶ Intermediary to have a physical contact address in India published on its website or app or both

ITC Initiative Promoted by New Business Solutions (NBS)



## SOCIAL MEDIA

- Identify 'first originator' of content that authorities consider anti-national
- Appoint grievance officer, resolve complaints in 15 days
- File monthly compliance report on complaints received, action taken

## DIGITAL NEWS

- Follow Press Council of India, Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act norms.
- Self-regulatory bodies to oversee adherence to Code of Ethics
- I&B Ministry to form panel, oversight mechanism

## OTT PLATFORMS

- Self-classify content into five age-based categories: U (universal), U/A 7+ (years), U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A.

- Parental locks for any content classified as U/A 13+ or above.
- Age verification mechanism for content classified as 'A' (adult)

## Manufacturing PMI signals Nov. output growth at 9-month high

1. India's manufacturing sector recorded the strongest production expansion in nine months in November 2021, with the survey-based IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) climbing to 57.6, from October's 55.9.
2. The November PMI signals the strongest improvement in the health of the manufacturing sector for 10 months, with factory orders rising for a fifth straight month and at the fastest pace since February. The long-run PMI average for India is 53.6





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3. There was a fractional improvement in hiring by goods producers, which marked only the second expansion in jobs over the past 20 months. The survey also suggested that the domestic market drove sales growth.’
4. “The overall level of positive sentiment slipped to a 17-month low,” IHS Markit said. Cost inflation pressures for producers remained ‘intense’, broadly at the same rate as October which had marked a 92-month high.
5. “The key threat to the outlook, in addition to potential new waves of COVID-19, is inflationary pressures,” said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit. “For now, companies are absorbing most of the additional cost burdens and lifting output charges only moderately. Should raw material scarcity and shipping issues continue to feed through to purchasing prices, substantial increases in output charges could be seen and demand resilience would be tested,” she added.

<b>MCQs</b>	<p>Q1. Which of the following states has the highest population of elephants as per elephant census 2017?</p> <p>a. Karnataka</p> <p>b. Kerala</p> <p>c. Assam</p> <p>d. TamilNadu</p>
<b>MAINS DAWP</b>	<p>Q1. Disruption as a brief, momentary reaction to a situation that demands debate is understandable, but as a sustained strategy, it is self-defeating. The absence of the Opposition will only leave the Government even more unchecked. Critically discuss.</p>