

Current Affairs 12th October 2023 by Saurabh Pandey

Amended the Information

Technology Rules, 2021

In April this year, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MEiTY) promulgated the 2023 IT Rules, which amended the Information Technology Rules, 2021, and allowed the Ministry to appoint a fact checking unit.

What does the amendment say?

The amendment brings about significant changes to Rule 3(1)(b)(v) of the IT Rules, 2021, which deals with the responsibilities of intermediaries.

They are now under an obligation to make “reasonable efforts” to ensure that users do not “host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update, or share any information” which is “identified as fake or false or misleading by a fact check unit of the Central government” in respect of “any business of the Central

government.”

Failure to comply with this puts intermediaries at risk of losing the safe harbour protection provided under Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000. The safe harbour safeguard exempts intermediaries from liability for any third-party information made available or hosted by them.

What did the High Court say?

Early on in the proceedings, in April, the Bombay High Court observed that the amended Rules, no matter how well-intentioned, lack necessary safeguards.

The Court expressed the opinion that prima facie, the Rules do not seem to offer protection for fair criticism of the government like parody and satire.

Highlighting the ambiguity surrounding the term “any business of the Central government,” the Court wondered if speeches made ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha

elections would fall within its ambit.

It then enquired if publications questioning the veracity of such political speeches would be covered by the amendment, thus empowering the government to identify “fake.

The Hindu

Surgical site infection

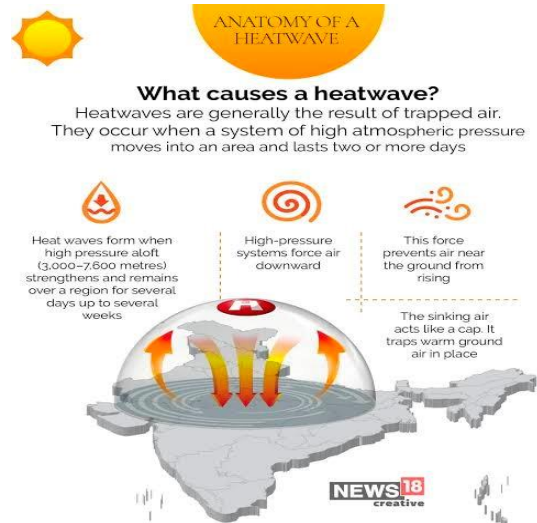
What is a surgical site infection?

A surgical site infection is a common complication in surgeries worldwide. It is an infection that occurs at the site of a surgery in the body. It could be a superficial skin infection or a deeper one, involving tissues. About 11% of patients who undergo surgery contract such infections, according to a 2018 WHO report. A substantial number of surgical site infections occur in semi -urgent and emergency surgeries, and the financial burden associated with these infections is significant for patients in India, where insurance

coverage is low and out -of -pocket expenses are high.

The Hindu

Heat waves

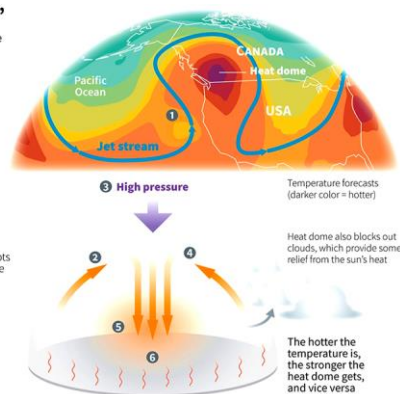


When maximum temperature reaches 40°C in plains and at least 30°C in hilly Regions.
i) Based on Departure from Normal
➤ Heat Wave: Departure from normal is 4.5°C to 6.4°C.
➤ Severe Heat Wave: Departure from normal is >6.4°C or more.
ii) Based on Actual Maximum Temperature
➤ Heat Wave: When actual maximum temperature ≥ 45°C.
➤ Severe Heat Wave: When actual maximum temperature ≥ 47°C.
iii) Criteria for describing Heat Wave for coastal stations
When maximum temperature departure is 4.5°C or more from normal, Heat Wave may be described provided actual maximum temperature is 37°C or more.

The 'heat dome'

Occurs when the atmosphere traps hot ocean air like a lid or cap

- In summer, the **jet stream** (which moves the air) shifts northward
- Hot and stagnant air **expands** upwards
- Strong and **high-pressure** atmospheric conditions combine with influences from La Niña act like a dome or cap
- In a process known as **convection**, hot air attempts to escape but high pressure pushes it back down
- Under the dome, the air **sinks and compresses**, releasing more heat
- As winds move the hot air east, the jet stream traps the air where it sinks, resulting in **heat waves**



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Heat wave Scenario	40°C	30°C
Maximum Temperature	Plains	Hills
Heat wave conditions prevail when...		
Normal maximum temperature	40°C	40°C
Deviation from normal	4-5°C or more	6°C or more
Above	▲	▲
At or below	▼	▼
40°C	40°C	40°C
5-6°C or more	5-6°C or more	7°C or more
Severe heat wave conditions prevail when...		
Normal maximum temperature	40°C	40°C
Deviation from normal	6°C or more	7°C or more
Above	▲	▲
At or below	▼	▼
40°C	40°C	40°C
6°C or more	6°C or more	7°C or more

Billions of people could struggle to survive in periods of deadly, humid heat within this century as temperatures rise, particularly in some of the world's largest cities, from Delhi to Shanghai, according to research published.

Towards the higher end of warming scenarios, potentially lethal combinations of heat and humidity could spread further including into areas such as the U.S. Midwest, the authors of the report said

It found that around 750 million people could experience one week per year of potentially deadly humid heat if temperatures rise 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

At 3C of warming, more than 1.5 billion people would face such a threat

The world is on track for 2.8 C of warming by 2100 under current policies, according to a 2022 United Nations report.

While India, Pakistan, and the Gulf have already briefly touched dangerous humid heat in recent years, the study found it will afflict major cities from Lagos to Chicago if the world keeps heating up.

The Hindu

BRI

India is likely to skip China's third summit marking President Xi Jinping's signature Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which, Beijing announced on Wednesday, will be held on October 17 in the Chinese capital. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), sometimes referred to as the New Silk Road, is one of the most ambitious infrastructure

projects ever conceived. Launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping, the vast collection of development and investment initiatives was originally devised to link East Asia and Europe through physical infrastructure. In the decade since, the project has expanded to Africa, Oceania, and Latin America, significantly broadening China's economic and political influence. Some analysts see the project as an unsettling extension of China's rising power, and as the costs of many of the projects have skyrocketed, opposition has grown in some countries.

The Hindu

Fish Mint

The herb which is believed to be a native of Southeast Asia grows easily on moist soils and is resistant to flooding. A herb with beautiful white flowers and broad, heart-shaped leaves. Unlike its appearance, it has a fish-like taste and smell. Hence, the

name, fish mint.

One is the Chinese variety which is common to China and Vietnam. It



has a strong, coriander-like aroma and the roots are used as a vegetable. The second is the Japanese variety, which is distributed from Nepal to Japan. This one has a lemon-ginger like aroma and is used in salads and fish recipes. In India, fish mint is used in the Northeastern states and is known by different names across the region. In Meghalaya, it is known as ja mardoh whereas it is commonly called tokning-khok in Manipur. The herb is used in vegetables and salads in both the states. In Assam, where the herb is known as masunduri, the tangy leaves are believed to be rich in

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vitamins and help to alleviate symptoms of jaundice, pneumonia or simple stomach infections.

The Hindu
