

Gaming and gambling: On the Centre's move to regulate online gaming

Economic rights, personal freedoms, social imperatives must be in balance

The Union government's **proposed measures** for regulating online gaming in a **draft amendment** to the Information Technology (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 **leave** several questions unanswered. **Some** of these proposed measures, such as the **establishment** of a self-regulatory body, collection of **know-your-customer** (KYC) information from players, and appointment of a **grievance** officer within the company, **are** already **in place**. These are moves that **industry bodies** representing such companies **have encouraged**. States such as Tamil Nadu want much **stricter** regulation of the sector than what is being proposed by the Centre in the draft, particularly for gambling with real money. The Centre's draft remains **ambiguous** on the question of whether States can have additional restrictions. **So far**, the industry has **staved off** several bans by **mounting** legal challenges **arguing** that they offer games of skill and not those purely dependent on **chance** — a **tenuous distinction** for real money gaming. Still, **games** that require **wagering are outlawed** in the physical form under the **colonial** Public Gambling Act, 1867 or States' own gambling laws. A clear answer should come from the Union government on whether States are **empowered** to **prohibit** these games online as they do offline. While the gaming industry has huge **potential** as an economic **driver** of growth in India, there is strong **case** for **robust** regulation. Of skill or of chance, all online games impact individuals and society, **in the short** and **the long term**.

The government has indicated that the **definition** of an 'online game', which is limited in the draft amendment to wagering platforms, **may** be **expanded** in future to include all games broadly. **Societies** around the world **have grappled with** the effects of video games on young players, and the **addictive** cycles that some gamers can **get stuck in**; **China, for instance, has** limited the number of hours that young gamers are allowed to play daily, after which they are **locked out for the day**. Care and **restraint** must be **exercised** when **pondering** similar steps in India, **lest** the government introduces **uncertainty** for both small domestic game developers and large international studios with Indian audiences. The government has said the goal is to **facilitate** the industry and not **hinder** its growth. It has also indicated that in future, it will try to **curb** "violent, addictive or sexual content" in video games. There should be **widespread** public consultation to ensure that economic rights, individual freedoms, and social imperatives remain in balance. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Gambling** (noun) –the activity of betting money, for example in a game जुआ
2. **Regulate** (verb) – control, check, legalize नियंत्रण करना
3. **Imperative** (noun) – An essential or urgent thing अनिवार्यता
4. **Proposed** (adjective) – Suggested, offered, advised, put forward, recommended प्रस्तावित
5. **Draft** (noun) – A draft plan, document, etc. is in its first form, including the main points but not all the details प्रारूप
6. **Amendment** (noun) – change, modification, revision, alteration, improvement संशोधन
7. **Establishment** (noun) – setting up, founding, formation, creation, launch स्थापना
8. **Know-your-customer** (KYC) (noun) – standards are designed to protect financial institutions against fraud, corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing
9. **Grievance** (noun) – complaint, criticism, objection, protestation शिकायत
10. **In place** (phrase) – established; in operation स्थापित
11. **Encourage** (verb) – promote, stimulate, support, foster, urge प्रोत्साहित करना
12. **Strict** (adjective) – Severe, firm, stern, harsh, stringent, rigorous सख्त
13. **Ambiguous** (adjective) – vague, unclear, equivocal, uncertain, obscure अस्पष्ट
14. **So far** (phrase) – thus far अभी तक
15. **Stave off** (phrasal verb) – avert, prevent, avoid, preclude, rule out, counter टालना, रोक देना
16. **Mounting** (adjective) – gradually increasing, increasing, rising बढ़ते हुए
17. **Argue** (verb) – Contend, say, maintain, reason, claim तर्क देना
18. **Game of chance** (phrase) – activity depending on luck, not skill. भाग्य पर निर्भर
19. **Tenuous** (adjective) – slight, negligible, weak, fragile थोड़ा /सूक्ष्म
20. **Distinction** (noun) – difference, contrast, dissimilarity, dissimilitude, divergence अंतर
21. **Wagering** (noun) – a bet; a gamble जुआ
22. **Outlaw** (verb) – ban or make illegal; forbid, prohibit, bar गैरकानूनी बनाना
23. **Colonial** (adjective) – Relating to the period of the British colonies before independence

24. **Empower** (verb) – authorize, license, entitle, permit, allow सशक्त करना/ अधिकार देना
25. **Prohibit** (verb) – forbid, ban, bar, interdict निषेध करना
26. **Potential** (noun) – capability, capacity, ability, power क्षमता
27. **Driver** (noun) – a factor
28. **Case** (noun) – Circumstance, situation, event, instance, occasion मामला, स्थिति
29. **Robust** (adjective) – strong, vigorous, sturdy, tough, powerful मज़बूत
30. **In the short term** (phrase) – In the near future निकट भविष्य में
31. **In the long term** (phrase) – over or for a long period of time. लंबे समय तक
32. **Expand** (verb) – extend, increase, enlarge, grow, broaden बढ़ना /विस्तार करना
33. **Grapple with** (phrasal verb) – cope with, contend with, confront, fight से जूझना
34. **Addictive** (adjective) – causing or characterized by addiction नशे की लत
35. **Get stuck in** (phrase) – start doing (something) with enthusiasm or determination. में अटक जाना
36. **For instance** (phrase) – For example, as, such as उदाहरण के लिए
37. **Lock out** (phrasal verb) – prevent, keep off, Keep out, exclude; keep someone out of a room or building by locking the door. बंद करना
38. **For the day** (phrase) – for an entire day पूरे दिन के लिए
39. **Restraint** (noun) – Self-control, control, self-possession, self-discipline संयम
40. **Exercise** (verb) – Apply, effect, exert, implement बरतना
41. **Ponder** (verb) – Consider, contemplate, think about, deliberate विचार करना
42. **Lest** (conjunction) – In case, So as not to, to avoid the risk of ऐसा न हो की
43. **Uncertainty** (noun) – Improbability, changeableness, variability, inconstancy अनिश्चितता
44. **Facilitate** (verb) – assist, help, ease, promote, further सरल बनाना
45. **Hinder** (verb) – hamper, be a hindrance to, obstruct, impede, inhibit, retard रोकना, बाधा डालना
46. **Curb** (verb) – Restrain, control, limit, hold back, rein in रोकना/ अंकुश लगाना
47. **Widespread** (adjective) – extensive, prevalent, general, common, pervasive व्यापक

Practice Exercise

Direction: (Q1 – Q5): In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

The RBI's September issue of the Monetary Policy Report in fact pertinently observes that the 'second-round effects of low growth and high inflation globally could keep domestic inflation at elevated levels even beyond eight quarters, necessitating appropriate monetary actions to anchor inflation expectations'. The central bank's own projections, in fact, do not anticipate a slowing in India's retail inflation below its upper tolerance threshold of 6% till the January-March quarter. And Mr. Das was right to point out the multiple factors that could _____1_____ the RBI's inflation outlook. These include the likelihood of higher pass-through of input costs by service providers on increased demand, as well as upside risks to food prices from both the lower kharif output of rice and pulses, and the unseasonably excess _____2_____ of rainfall in some regions that have pushed up the prices of vegetables. The surfeit of liquidity or cash in the banking system, which is expected to be _____3_____ by enhanced government spending in the coming months, could also threaten price stability and the RBI Governor was at pains to note that the policy stance of a _____4_____ 'withdrawal of accommodation' had become an imperative. Specifically, he pointed out that 'even as the nominal policy repo rate had been raised by 190 basis points since May, the rate adjusted for inflation still _____5_____ the 2019 levels'. With the RBI's latest surveys of households' inflation expectations and consumer confidence too signalling that price pressures will continue to restrain consumption, inflation control will have to remain the top policy priority.

1. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. Mockery
 - B. Upend
 - C. Overtly
 - D. Disaffection
2. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. Predominantly
 - B. Spells
 - C. Foothold
 - D. Persistently
3. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. Brazenly
 - B. Quip
 - C. Unwieldy
 - D. Buoyed
4. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. Calibrated
 - B. Slump
 - C. Diverse
 - D. Entreaty
5. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**

- A. Coherence
- B. Cohesion
- C. Bulky
- D. Trailed

Directions (Q6–Q7): In the following questions, four words are given in each question, out of which only one word is rightly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word.

6. A. Regulete
B. Imperetive
C. Propase
D. Amendment
7. A. Grievance
B. Encouarage
C. Sterict
D. Ambiguous

Directions (Q8–Q9): The question below consists of a set of labeled sentences. Out of the four options given, select the most logical order of the sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

8. A. Poor posture may strain neck muscles, whether you're leaning over your computer or hunching over your workstation.
B. However, neck pain may occasionally be an indication of a more serious issue.
C. Neck pain is a frequent problem among many people these days.
D. If your neck pain is accompanied by numbness or lack of strength in your arms or hands, or if you experience shooting pain into your shoulder or down your arm, you should seek medical attention.
- A. CADB B. CABD C. BDCA D. ABDC
9. A. It not only distances the addict from his/her social circles but also impacts their productivity badly.
B. People begin drinking just for the sake of it and gradually make it a habit.
C. Addiction of any kind, including alcoholic addiction impacts all aspects of an individual's life.
D. Once it becomes a habit, it does not require much to change into an addiction.
- A. BDAC B. DBCA C. BDCA D. ACBD

Directions (Q10-Q12): In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

10. **They flew a kite in the evening.**
A. A kite was being flown by them in the evening.
B. In the evening, a kite have been flown by them.
C. A kite has been flown by them since evening.
D. A kite was flown by them in the evening.
11. **I was fascinated by the novel.**
A. The novel was fascinated to me.

- B. The novel fascinated me.
- C. The novel fascinate me.
- D. The novel fascinates me.

12. **The driver was taken to the nearest dispensary by the beggars.**

- A. The beggars take the driver to the nearest dispensary.
- B. The beggars took the driver to dispensary.
- C. The beggars took the driver to the nearest dispensary.
- D. To the nearest dispensary, the beggars took the driver.

Directions (13-14): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

13. **Allowance given to a wife from her husband on separation**

- A. Allegory
- B. Alimony
- C. Affidavit
- D. Advocacy

14. **Formal forgiveness of a person's sins**

- A. Ablutions
- B. Absolution
- C. Absolutism
- D. Forgiveness

Directions (15 – 16): Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

15. I begged him to reconsider my application, but he **put his foot down**.

- A. stamped his foot down
- B. agreed to reconsider
- C. refused to yield
- D. did not run

16. **Fair-weather friends**

- A. A person who is friends with you during the night
- B. A person who is friends with you every day
- C. A person whose friendship cannot be relied on in times
- D. A person who is friends with you in difficult times

Directions (17-18): choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.

17. **TENUOUS**

- A. Nationwide
- B. Clerical
- C. Detain
- D. Sturdy

18. **ROBUST**

- A. Widespread
- B. Weak
- C. Suppression

D. Resistance

Direction: (19-20): In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

19. **PONDER**

- A. Consider
- B. Conservative
- C. Host
- D. Holy

20. **HINDER**

- A. Shrine
- B. Demonstrate
- C. Chant
- D. Deter

Directions (21 – 22): Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution'.

21. No sooner did this idea enter his head, than it carried conviction with it.

- A. No sooner does this idea enter
- B. No sooner do his idea enter
- C. No sooner has his idea enter
- D. No substitution

22. The students decided to surprise their teacher on her birthday

- A. their teacher at her birthday
- B. there teacher on her birthday
- C. her teacher on her birthday
- D. No substitution

Directions (Q23– Q25): Find out the error, if any –

- 23. Fewer rainfall means less traffic accidents, (A)/ according to the experts (B)/ report on highway safety. (C)/ No error(D)
- 24. I (A)/ never saw (B)/ you at the party yesterday. (C)/ No error(D)
- 25. A man was sleeping (A)/ at night in his cabin (B)/ that suddenly (C)/ his room filled with light. (D)

Answers

1. B 2.B 3.D 4.A 5.D 6.D 7.A 8.B 9.C 10.D 11.B 12.C
 13. B 14.B 15.C 16.C 17. D 18. B 19.A 20.D 21.D 22.D 23.A 24.B
 25. C

Explanations

- Upend** (verb) – To invalidate, destroy, or change completely; overthrow: पलटाना
 - **Mockery** (noun) – ridicule, derision, parody, spoof उपहास
 - **Overtly** (adverb) – Openly, clearly, obviously, blatantly, visibly, explicitly खुलकर
 - **Disaffection** (noun) – dissatisfaction, discontent असंतोष
- Spell** (noun) – period, time, stretch दौर, चरण
 - **Predominantly** (adverb) – In a predominant manner. मुख्य रूप से
 - **Foothold** (noun) – a strong first position from which further progress can be made पैर जमाना
 - **Persistently** (adverb) – In a persistent manner; continuously. लगातार
- Buoyed** (verb) – to keep something at a high level ऊँचे स्तर पर रखना
 - **Brazenly** (adverb) – boldly, flagrantly, openly, blatantly, brashly बेशर्मी से
 - **Quip** (noun) – a funny and clever remark परिहास; चुटकुला
 - **Unwieldy** (noun) – cumbersome, awkward, clumsy, unmanageable, ponderous बोझिल
- Calibrated** (adjective) – calculated, planned, computed, determined नियोजित
 - **Slump** (noun) – Recession, downturn, decline, depression मंदी
 - **Diverse** (adjective) – Varied, various, different, distinct विविध
 - **Entreaty** (noun) – appeal, request, prayer विनती
- Trail** (verb) – Follow, track, pursue, trace रास्ता पर चलना
 - **Coherence** (noun) – consistency, coherency, integrity सम्बद्धता
 - **Cohesion** (noun) – unity, solidarity एकजुटता
 - **Bulky** (adjective) – large, heavy, hefty, massive भारी-भरकम
- Amendment** (noun) – change, modification, revision, alteration, improvement संशोधन
- Grievance** (noun) – complaint, criticism, objection, protestation शिकायत
- CABD**

Neck pain is a frequent problem among many people these days. Poor posture may strain neck muscles, whether you're leaning over your computer or hunching over your workstation.

However, neck pain may occasionally be an indication of a more serious issue. If your neck pain is accompanied by numbness or lack of strength in your arms or hands, or if you experience shooting pain into your shoulder or down your arm, you should seek medical attention.

9. **BDCA**

People begin drinking just for the sake of it and gradually make it a habit. Once it becomes a habit, it does not require much to change into an addiction. Addiction of any kind, including alcoholic addiction impacts all aspects of an individual's life. It not only distances the addict from his/her social circles but also impacts their productivity badly.

10. A kite was flown by them in the evening.

11. The novel fascinated me.

12. The beggars took the driver to the nearest dispensary.

13. **Alimony** – Allowance given to a wife from her husband on separation निर्वाह निधि

- **Allegory** – a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one. रूपक, दृष्टांत
- **Affidavit** – a written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation, for use as evidence in court. शपथ पत्र
- **Advocacy** – public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy. वकालत, पक्षसमर्थन

14. **Absolution** – Formal forgiveness of a person's sins मुक्ति

- **Ablutions** – an act of washing oneself. स्नान
- **Absolutism** – the holding of absolute principles in political, philosophical, or theological matters. निरंकुश राज्य का सिद्धान्त
- **Forgiveness** – the action or process of forgiving or being forgiven. माफी

15. **Put one's foot down** (phrase) – Refused to yield/surrender

16. **Fair-weather friends** (phrase) – A person whose friendship cannot be relied on in times अच्छे समय के दोस्त

17. **Tenuous** (adjective) – slight, negligible, weak, fragile थोड़ा /सूक्ष्म

- **Nationwide** (adjective) – Countrywide, national देशव्यापी
- **Clerical** (adjective) – Priestly, religious, ecclesiastical, church पुरोहितवत्
- **Detain** (verb) – Arrest, hold, capture, confine, control, restrain गिरफ्तार करना

18. **Robust** (adjective) – strong, vigorous, sturdy, tough, powerful मज़बूत

- **Widespread** (adjective) – extensive, prevalent, general, common, pervasive व्यापक रूप से
- **Suppression** (noun) – repression, crushing, oppression दमन
- **Resistance** (noun) – Opposition, Defiance, challenge विरोध

19. **Ponder** (verb) – Consider, contemplate, think about, deliberate विचार करना

- **Conservative** (adjective) – Traditional, conventional, conformist, traditionalist रूढ़िवादी
- **Host** (verb) – be the host of or for; hold, present, introduce, accommodate
- **Holy** (adjective) – consecrated, sanctified, blessed, divine, sacred पवित्र

20. **Hinder** (verb) – hamper, be a hindrance to, obstruct, impede, inhibit, retard रोकना, बाधा डालना

- **Shrine** (noun) – Temple, memorial, holy place, place of pilgrimage मंदिर
- **Demonstrator** (noun) – Protestor, supporter, activist, campaigner, lobbyist प्रदर्शक
- **Chant** (verb) – Recite, intone, repeat, vocalize गाना

21. No Substitution Required

22. No Substitution Required

23. (A) 'Fewer rainfall means less traffic accidents' के बदले 'Less rainfall means fewer traffic accidents' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'little' एक Quantitative Adjective है जिसका Comparative 'less' है, जबकि 'few' एक Numeral Adjective है जिसका Comparative 'fewer' है और 'rainfall' एक Uncountable Noun है जिसके पहले आवश्यकतानुसार 'little/little/very little, less' etc. का प्रयोग होगा जबकि 'accidents' एक Plural Countable Noun है जिसके पहले आवश्यकतानुसार 'few, a few, very few, fewer' etc. का प्रयोग होगा।

- 'Less rainfall means fewer traffic accidents' will be used instead of 'Fewer rainfall means less traffic accidents', because 'little' is a Quantitative Adjective whose Comparative is 'less', while 'few' is a Numeral Adjective whose Comparative is 'fewer' and 'rainfall' is an Uncountable Noun which is preceded by 'little/little/very little, less' etc. Where 'accidents' is a Plural Countable Noun preceded by 'few, a few, very few, fewer' etc. Will be used.

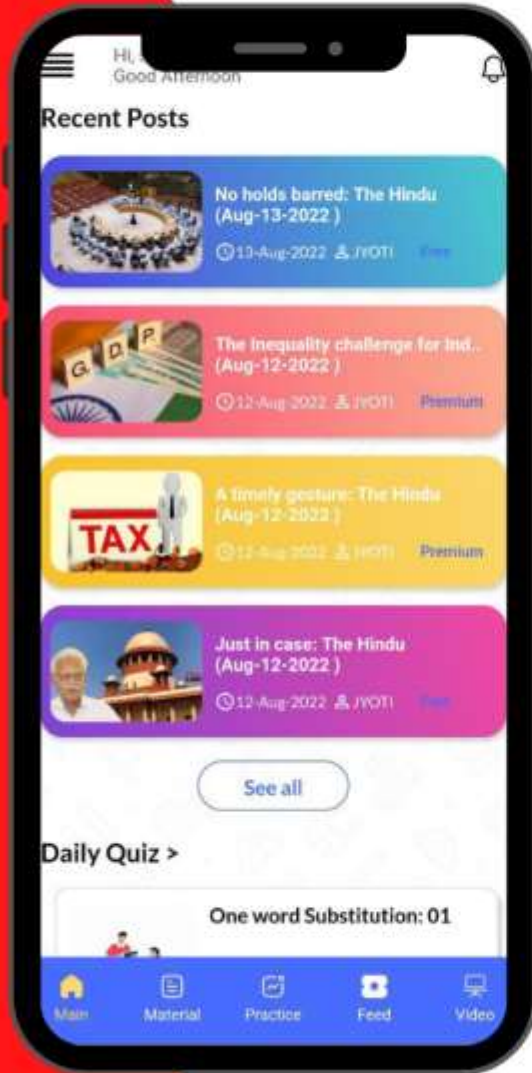
24. (B) 'never saw' के बदले 'did not see' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Simple Past में Negative Sentence बनाने के लिए 'did + not + V1' या 'didn't + V1' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे- I did not/didn't see him at the party yesterday.

- 'did not see' will be used instead of 'never saw' because 'did + not V1' or 'didn't + V1' is used to make Negative Sentence in Simple Past;
 - i. I did not/didn't see him at the party yesterday.

25. (C) 'that' के बदले 'when' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि time बताने के लिए simple tense में 'when' का प्रयोग 'जब' के अर्थ में होता है; जैसे-

i. She was sitting in the when a bomb exploded.

- 'when' will be used instead of 'that' because 'when' is used in the meaning of 'when' in simple tense to tell the time; like-
She was sitting in the when a bomb exploded.



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