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TECH TALK

A GNLU Centre for Law and Technology Initiative

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BIG GAIN FOR GAMING COMPANIES IN KARNATAKA:

On February 14, 2022, the Karnataka High Court partially overturned the blanket ban imposed by the Karnataka Government on online games in 2021. Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021, had imposed a ban on all play-to-play games that did not require a player to pay for every move made in the game.

The Act was criticized for having differed from the Supreme Court Dream 11 judgment. The Apex Court in that judgment held that for a game to be deemed a 'game of skill', it must require greater elements of skill than elements of chance.



The High Court acknowledged the ban's failure to address the difference between games of skill and chance as a violation of the constitutional right to equality. It said that the ban would breach companies' right to carry on trade. The High Court also advised the Government to seek expert opinions while drawing legislation in such areas of advanced technology.

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ASCI ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR CRYPTO, NFT RELATED ADVERTISING

The ASCI had noticed that advertisements don't disclose the risk associated with virtual digital assets. Therefore, it released several guidelines concerning advertisements of such assets. These guidelines are to be enforced from 01 April 2022.

It states that disclaimers should be prominent and unmissable to an average consumer. It also specified how the disclaimer should look in the print, video, and audio format as well as social media posts and stories. The use of words like currency, securities, custodian, and depositories in such advertisements is prohibited.

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MEITY RELEASES A DRAFT PROPOSAL TITLED 'DRAFT INDIA DATA ACCESSIBILITY & USE POLICY, 2022':

The MEITY on February 21, 2022 released a policy proposal titled as, "Draft India Data Accessibility & Use Policy, 2022." The policy aims to, "radically transform India's ability to harness public sector data". A major highlight of this draft policy is the permitting of the licensing and sale of public data by the Government to the private sector.

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BUDGET 2022 ON CRYPTOCURRENCY:

Major proposals made in the budget, 2022 dealing with cryptocurrencies in India.

- Introduction of a cryptocurrency tax regime in this year's budget tabled before the parliament.
- 30% tax would be levied on income from the transfer of virtual digital assets
- Losses incurred in investments made in virtual digital efforts cannot be offset against other income.
- Gifts in virtual digital assets will be taxed in the hands of the recipient.
- A TDS of 1% was proposed to be levied on the transfer of virtual digital assets.
- RBI to launch its own blockchain-based Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) by 2023.

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DIGI YATRA POLICY AND CONCERN OVER LACK OF DATA PROTECTION LAW:

The 'Digi yatra' policy released by the Ministry of Civil aviation aims to introduce biometric-based digital processing of passengers at airports. DigiYatra envisages a connected ecosystem enhancing the seamless travel experience for the passengers and simultaneously improving the security.

This scheme would further increase the utilisation of facial recognition technology in airports. However, with its promises, concerns have been raised regarding the lack of an extensive data protection law in the country that would ensure safeguards in the collection and storage of user data.

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INDIAN SCIENTISTS CLAIM TO HAVE DESIGNED A VACCINE AGAINST ALL VARIANTS OF CORONAVIRUS:

Scientists at the Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneshwar have designed a peptide vaccine which they claim could protect against any future variants of the coronavirus.

They claim that "*The designed vaccine was found to be highly stable, antigenic and immunogenic*".

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