

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 15 NOVEMBER 2021

1. PM Modi tasks entire council of ministers to develop resources for further improving governance

Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))

In a major push for a hands-on approach to governance, the Modi government is planning to rope in young professionals, seek suggestions from retiring officials and make the best use of technology for project monitoring, besides various other steps to be overseen by eight different groups comprising of members from the entire Council of Ministers, sources said. The 77 ministers have been divided into eight groups to develop technology-based resources, create a pool of professionals for recruiting in their teams and other similar initiatives to be adopted in the offices of all ministers' offices to bring more transparency and further improve and efficiency of the Modi government, the sources said.

2. Cryptocurrency Bill: Govt working on definition, tax treatment; cabinet nod to be sought soon

Source: Money Control ([Link](#))

The Finance Ministry is racing against time to introduce the planned bill on cryptocurrency in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament. This urgency comes in the light of what many in the government see as unchecked growth of an unregulated sector and can be gauged from the multiple meetings being held, including once chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Winter Session is likely to be held from November 29 to around December 13, and one of the sticking points that needs to be sorted out before that is the tax treatment of the sector, Moneycontrol has learnt from informed sources. These issues are expected to be dealt with soon and that cabinet approval could be sought this month itself, the sources added.

3. Delhi pollution: AQI improves marginally but remains in 'very poor' category

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Delhi's air quality on 15 November witnessed marginal improvement as the air quality in the capital city reached the lower end of the 'very poor' category with Air Quality Index (AQI) at 318 (overall), according to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR). The pollution level in the National Capital Region (NCR), especially Noida and Gurugram, have also shown slight improvement. Noida reported AQI in the upper end of the 'very poor' category at 387, while the air quality in Gurugram has seen significant improvement and has now reached the lower end of the 'very poor' category at 317.

4. Sebi, RBI plan to bring digital gold under regulatory ambit

Source: The Hindustan Times ([Link](#))

The finance ministry, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are working to bring digital gold, along with crypto assets, under some regulatory oversight, as concerns mount over the unchecked growth in such investments without investor protections that apply to regulated securities. The government plans to address the issues of transparency, outrageous claims, and lofty promises made by some companies in unregulated assets to lure investors. As part of the plan, the government may amend the Sebi Act and Securities Contracts Regulation Act to categorise digital gold as a security, said two officials with direct knowledge of the matter, requesting anonymity.

5. Tenure of ED, CBI chiefs extended to up to 5 years through Ordinances

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

Days before the winter session of Parliament, the government on Sunday passed two Ordinances extending the tenures of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) chiefs to up to five years. The chiefs of the central agencies currently have a two-year tenure. The Ordinance is clearly aimed to ensure the continuance of current ED chief S K Mishra, who is already on an extension, having reached 60 in 2020. His term would have come to an end on November 17. Both Ordinances have been signed by President Ram Nath Kovind. The chiefs of the top agencies can be given extensions, according to the Ordinances, every year for up to three years after they complete the two-year term.