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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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TRAI AND OTT PLATFORM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

OTT platforms do not fall under jurisdiction of TRAI: TDSAT

New Delhi: Over the top (OTT) streaming platforms do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and are governed under the Information Technology Rules, 2021, notified by the IT Ministry, India's telecom appellate panel has held.

In an order passed Wednesday, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) said OTT platforms such as Disney+Hotstar are outside the purview of the TRAI Act since they do not require any permission or a licence from the Union government.

This is a significant position given that TRAI and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) are attempting to regulate OTT services, something that has been challenged by the IT Ministry, *The Indian Express* had earlier reported. **ENS**

Context: Recently, **TDSAT ruled that OTT platforms** are exempt from the TRAI Act as they **don't need government permission** or a license. The **Telecom Appellate Panel in India** has determined that Over the Top (OTT) **streaming platforms are not under the authority** of the TRAI but are instead regulated by the Information Technology Rules, 2021, issued by the IT Ministry.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

- **About:** It is a regulatory body set up by the Government of India under section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- **Aim**: To regulate telecom services, including fixation/revision of tariffs for telecom services which were earlier vested in the Central Government.
- **Establishment**: In 1997
- **Composition**: Chairperson, two whole-time members and two part-time members, all of which are appointed by the Government of India.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Communications and Broadcasting
- **Headquarters**: New Delhi
- **Tenure**: 3 years or till the age of 65 years

Over-The-Top (OTT) Platform

- **About:** Originally designed as a **content hosting service**, quickly expanded its scope to encompass the **production & and distribution of short films**, feature movies, documentaries & web series
- These platforms **provide a variety of content and employ** artificial intelligence to recommend content to users based on their previous viewing habits on the platform.
- **Examples:** Netflix, Disney+, Hulu, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, Peacock, Curiosity Stream, Pluto TV, and so many more.

Telecom Appellate Panel in India

- **About**: The TRAI Act of 1997 was **amended in the year 2000 and TDSAT** was set up to adjudicate disputes and dispose of appeals with a view to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector.
- **Composition**: Chairperson and **two Members** appointed by the Central Government
- **Powers and Jurisdiction:** The Tribunal exercises jurisdiction over Telecom, Broadcasting, IT and Airport tariff matters **under the TRAI Act, 1997 (as amended)**, the Information Technology Act, 2008 and the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008.

PIB

Oct 4

NATIONAL TURMERIC BOARD

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Government Policies)

Government of India notifies establishment of National Turmeric Board

Context: Recently, the Government of India officially **established the National Turmeric Board**, signaling its commitment to promoting the development and expansion of the turmeric industry and its products within the country.

National Turmeric Board

- The **primary goal of NTB** is to foster the expansion and enhancement of both turmeric and turmeric-related products.
- The key objectives include raising awareness and **consumption, exploring new international markets**, advancing research and development, and leveraging our indigenous knowledge to enhance the value of turmeric.

- **Composition**
  - Chairperson who is appointed by the Central Government.
  - A Secretary who is appointed Department of Commerce.

- **Other members from**
  - Ministry of AYUSH
  - Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Commerce & Industry of the Union Government,
  - Senior state government representatives from 3 states (on rotation basis)
  - Select national/state institutions involved in research
  - Representatives of turmeric farmers and exporters.

Turmeric Crop

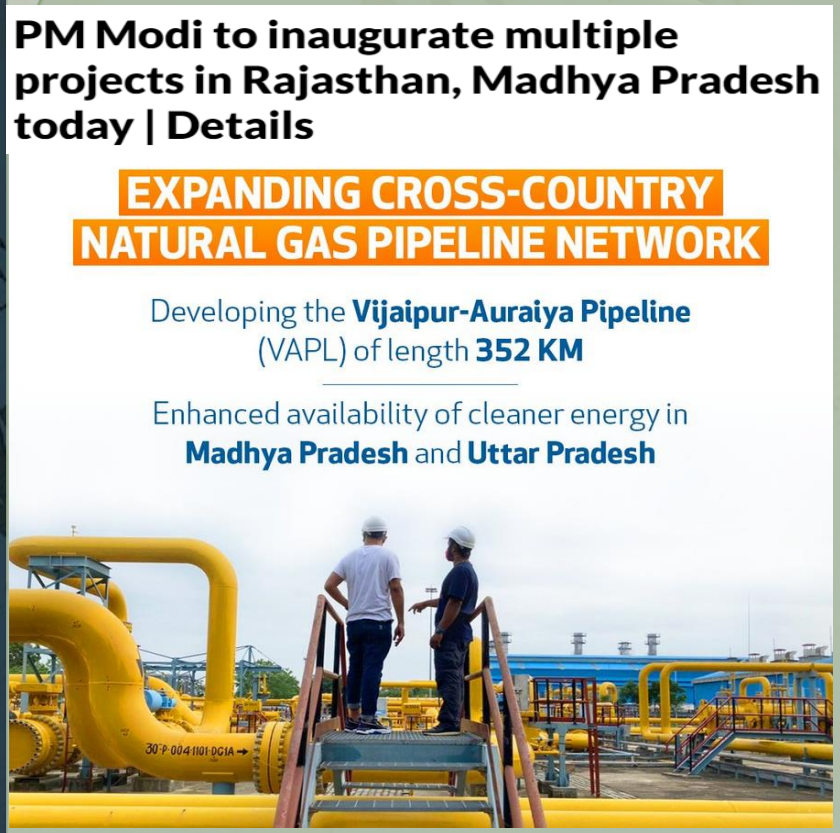
- Turmeric (Curcuma longa) is used as **condiment, dye, drug** and cosmetic in addition to its use in religious ceremonies.
- India is a **leading producer, consumer and exporter** of turmeric in the world.
- **Soil and climate**: A friable well drained red loamy soil in wet or garden lands under tropical conditions is ideal.
- **Annual rainfall**: It can be grown in regions receiving an annual rainfall of 1500 mm or more.
- **Temperatures**: between 20 and 30 °C.
- **Cultivated States**: Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Karnataka, West Bengal, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Assam.

HINDUSTAN TIMES

Oct 5

MULTIPROJECT IN MADHYA PRADESH

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)



Context: Recently, Prime Minister Narendra of India inaugurated **various projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh,** including rail and road developments and a memorial honoring Rani Durgavati.

Vijaipur-Auraiya-Phulpur Gas Pipeline Project

- The gas pipeline project, connecting Vijaipur, Auraiya, and Phulpur is to be executed.
- **Aim**: To provide clean and affordable natural gas to both industries and households, contributing to reduced environmental emissions.
- It **commences in Nagpur, Maharashtra**, and traverses through the districts of Chhindwara, Seoni, and Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.

Veerangana Rani Durgavati Smarak aur Udyaan

- It will feature an imposing **52-foot-high bronze statue** of Rani Durgavati.
- The site will host an i**mpressive museum**, focusing on the **history of the Gondwana region**, including **Rani Durgavati's valor** and courage.
- It will also showcase the **culture, art, cuisine, and lifestyle of the Gond people** and other tribal communities.

Rani Durgavati

- Rani Durgavati is said to have been born in 1524, in Mahoba's **Chandela dynasty**. The Chandelas were known for building the famous **Khajuraho temples** in the 11th century.
- She is chiefly remembered for **defending Gondwana against the Mughal Empire.**

THE HINDU Page 14

NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Security)

Shah calls for uniform anti-terrorism structure under NIA in all States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Amit Shah addresses the inaugural session of an anti-terror conference hosted by the NIA, in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that along with a ruthless approach, a uniform anti-terrorism structure should be established under the purview of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in all the States.

The Minister made the remarks at the inauguration of the two-day anti-terror conference organised by NIA.

"A model anti-terrorism structure should be established under the purview of NIA, the hierarchy, structure, and standard operating procedure of investigation of all anti-terrorism agencies in all States should be made uniform for better coordination between Central and State agencies. The task of NIA, ATS, and STF should not be limited to investigation but they should also think out of the box and take innovative measures to counter the terrorism," Mr. Shah said.

Mr. Shah said that the Central and State agencies had succeeded in firmly curbing all forms of terrorism in the country in the past nine years. Tough decisions taken by the Modi government have yielded very good results in handling challenges posed by cryptocurrencies, hawala, terror-funding, organised crime syndicates and narco-terror links. Still more is to be done, he added.

Mr. Shah stressed that all the agencies of the Centre and the State should make multidimensional and Artificial Intelligence-based use of the database in order to make the fight against terrorism successful.

Context: Recently, India's Home Minister, speaking at **a two-day anti-terror conference** in New Delhi organized by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), called for the establishment of a Model Anti-terrorism **Structure under NIA's supervision.**

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- **About**: NIA is India's primary Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.
- It operates under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Establishment**: NIA was established in response to the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks through the National Investigation Agency Act 2008.
- **Jurisdiction**: NIA has the authority to investigate and handle terrorism-related crimes across Indian states without requiring special permission from the states.
  - **State Governments can request the Central Government** to transfer cases to NIA if they involve offenses listed in the NIA Act's schedule.
- **NIA Special Courts**: Special Courts designated for NIA cases are established by the Indian government.
  - These courts are presided over by judges appointed by the Central Government based on the recommendation of the respective Chief Justice of the High Court for the region.
- **Headquarters**:News Delhi.
- **Branches**: Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur, Jammu, Chandigarh, Ranchi, Chennai, and Imphal.

LIVEMINT

Oct 5

CHANDRAYAAN 3

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci ad Tech)

Chandrayaan-3, India mission to Moon, sleeps forever: Here's what next for Pragyan rover, Vikram lander



Context: Recently, India's groundbreaking **Chandrayaan-3 mission** to the moon's south pole faced a setback as its **Vikram lander and Pragyan rover failed** to awaken during the lunar day, spanning 14 Earth days.

Chandrayaan 3

- **About**: It is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.
- **Launched by:** Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (LVM3 –M4).
- **Significance:** India became the first nation to soft-land on the surface of the Lunar south pole and overall the fourth to do a soft landing on moon.
- **Objective:** Demonstrate safe and soft landing on the surface of the Moon,
  - Conduct rover operations on the Moon, and
  - Conduct on-site experiments on the Lunar surface.
- **Components**: **Lander** (powered by 4 throttle-ale engines & equipped with Laser Doppler Velocimeter), **Rover** (no orbiter unlike Chandrayaan 2).
- The **mission has six tools** for studying science and an additional instrument on the propulsion module.
- **Propulsion Module**: It carries the SHAPE experiment, which uses spectro-polarimetry to study Earth's reflected light.

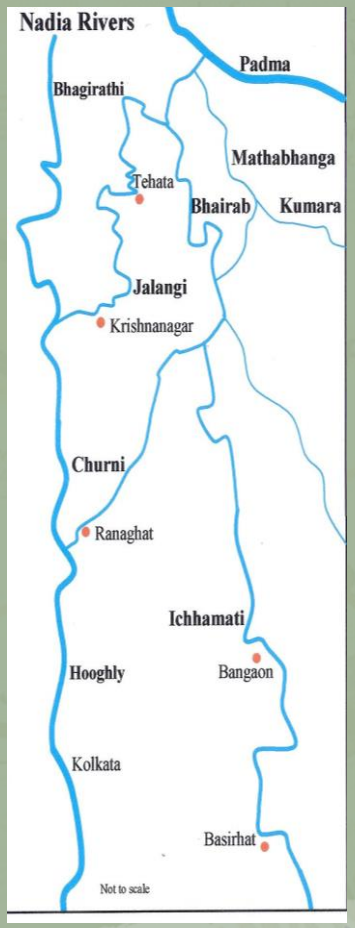
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ICHAMATI RIVER
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

Shri Shantanu Thakur inaugurates dredging work at National Waterways-44, Ichamati River in West Bengal

Context: The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has started work to revive the Ichamati River. The government has declared a **part of 63 km of the Ichhamati River** as a National Waterway and marked it as Waterway number 44.



Ichamati River

- **Other name**: Also known as Ichamathi River.
- Ichhamati River is a transboundary river that flows through West Bengal, India, and Bangladesh.
- **Origin:** It is one of the bifurcations of river Mathabhanga and originates at Mahjdia village in the Nadia district of West Bengal.
- **Three Parts of River:** The longer part flows from the **Mathabhanga River**, then it joins the **Kalindi River** and then in North-24 Parganas and **Debhata** in Satkhira District.
- **Tributaries:** Ichhamati River and its tributaries form a large oxbow lake complex in North 24-Parganas district near Bangaon.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

- **About:** The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is an autonomous organization that was established on October 27, 1986, in accordance with the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985.
- IWAI's primary responsibility is the **development, maintenance, and regulation** of waterways that have been designated as National Waterways (NWs) under the National Waterways Act of 2016.
- **Headquarter**: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- IWAI carries out the **implementation of policy guidelines** and directives issued by the Inland Water Transport (IWT) Wing.

DTE

Oct 5

PLATYPUSES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Even platypuses aren't safe from bushfires – a new DNA study tracks their disappearance



Context: Recent studies show that even **platypuses aren't safe** from bushfires in Australia.

- **Bushfires burn and kill the vegetation** that stabilises the soil around rivers or streams. When rain follows fire, a **lot of ash, soil and other debris** can be washed into waterways.

Platypuses

- **Scientific name:** Ornithorhynchus anatinus.
- **Distribution**: They are found in Australia.
- **Habitat**: It is known for its reclusive nature and highly specific habitat requirements.
- It is found near small streams and cool moving rivers.
- It is a **duck-billed, beaver-tailed**, otter-footed, egg-laying mammal.
- It is a small species of **semi-aquatic mammal** indigenous to the eastern coast of Australia.
- They are **solitary animals** that despite occupying overlapping home ranges, only comes together during the breeding season.
- The researchers and other conservation groups have **called for Australia to classify the species of Platypus** as nationally threatened.
- **IUCN Status**: Near Threatened.

PLI SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Asandas & Sons Takes Govt to HC on Food PLI Scheme

Co says govt tweaked terms of the scheme without prior notice

Nehal.Chaliawala
@timesgroup.com



Mumbai: One of India's largest exporters of frozen foods, Asandas and Sons has moved the Delhi High Court against the central government in a dispute pertaining to the ₹10,900-crore production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme for food processing industries, people in the know said.

Asandas and Sons, which manufactures and exports products like French fries and potato wedges under HyFun brand, has alleged that the government arbitrarily amended the terms of the scheme without prior consultation. This, after companies had already submitted their applications, it said.

Further, the company said the government has not allowed it to change the terms of its own application despite a change in the nature of the scheme. This, it argued, is in violation of principles of natural justice, people cited above said.

The company alleged that the government made changes to the scheme without any formal amendment to the scheme notice issued in April 2021, they said.

Emails sent to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Asandas and Sons remained unanswered as of press time Wednesday.

The PLI scheme for food processing industry, which is effective for a period of six years from FY22 to FY27, was introduced by the government to support the creation of global food manufacturing champions in the country. As many as 33 companies have been admitted to the scheme.

In the guidelines for the scheme issued in May 2021, the government listed growth in total sales and exports during the period of the scheme and fresh investments made as part of the scheme as the criteria to calculate incentives due to participant companies.

According to sources, Asandas and Sons has said in its writ petition that the government retrospectively introduced a much lower cap on the maximum benefits that one company can receive as part of the scheme.

As per the scheme guidelines, no company would get more than 25% of the total budget of the scheme as incentives. This, Asandas claimed, has been cut to 8% after it submitted its application.

The company claimed that due to this revision, incentives due to the company have gone down from ₹740 crore to ₹114 crore.

Context: Recently, Asandas and Sons, a **major frozen foods exporter in India,** filed a case in the Delhi High Court against the central government regarding the Rs 10,900-crore **production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme** for food processing industries.

Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) Scheme

- **About**: PLI scheme is an initiative that **provides incentives to domestic industries** to boost local production.
- Through this scheme the Government aims to **give companies incentives on incremental sales** from products manufactured in domestic units.
- PLI has been **introduced to boost domestic manufacturing** and cut down on import bills.
- **Eligibility**: A **company registered in India** that proposes to produce items related to the Target Segments there and submits an application for approval under the Scheme is an applicant for the purposes of the Production Linked Incentives Scheme.
    - The applicant is **permitted to run either brand-new or current production facilities** to produce goods for the Target Segments.
- **Sectors Included**: Automobile and auto components, electronics and IT hardware, telecom, pharmaceuticals, solar modules, metals and mining, textiles and apparel, white goods, drones, and advanced chemistry cell batteries.
- **Incentives Under the Scheme**: The incentives, **calculated on the basis of incremental sales**, range from as low as 1% for the electronics and technology products to as high as 20% for the manufacturing of critical key starting drugs and certain drug intermediaries.
    - In some sectors such as advanced chemistry cell batteries, textile products and the drone industry, the **incentive to be given will be calculated** on the basis of sales, **performance and local value addition** done over the period of five years.

TIMES OF INDIA Page 5

GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Geography/Disaster)

3m Indians at risk of Sikkim-like disaster: International study

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) that led to disaster in Sikkim may just be an indication of the danger such an event poses to the lives of three million Indians living in vulnerable areas of the six Himalayan states/UTs — J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

The first global assessment of such areas, done by an international team led by scientists at UK's Newcastle University, flagged in February that India and Pakistan together make up one-third of the total number of people globally exposed to such GLOFs. The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, also underlined that the population exposed to GLOFs increases with distance from a glacial lake.

GLOFs occur when either a natural dam containing a glacial lake bursts or when the lake's level suddenly increases and overflows its banks, leading to catastrophic downstream destruction.

The Himalayan ranges are host to 7,500 glacial lakes. Of these, Sikkim has about 10%, of which nearly 25 are assessed to be at-risk. India's Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga river basin shows a total of 4,707 glacial lakes have been mapped from their origin to foothills of

Dam, bridge washed away at hydro project

The dam of India's second biggest run-of-the-river hydropower project — the 1,200 MW Sikkim Urja or Teesta Urja — and a connecting bridge were swept away by flash floods caused by a breach in Lhonak lake in north-west Sikkim on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, reports **Roshan Gupta.** Sikkim's biggest project on the Teesta, was built in the Chungthang area of Mangan district at a staggering cost of Rs 25,000 crore.

However, there was a silver lining as the Teesta Low Dam Project Stage IV at Kalijhora remained unscathed, thanks to the timely opening of seven gates. "At 11.58pm on Tuesday, the ITBP informed us about the disaster. Our team rushed to open the gates, but the floodwaters breached the dam before they could reach it. Fourteen members of our team were rescued by 2am on Wednesday," Sunil Saraogi, executive chairman of Sikkim Urja Limited, said on Thursday.

Sarogi said the project commissioned in 2017 had finally started turning a profit since last year. Shankar Sharma, civil supervisor of the project, said: "I immediately alerted the villagers. No injuries were reported".

Context: Recently, Recently, in the **journal Nature Communications**, the first global assessment by an international team revealed that India and Pakistan together account for a third of the world's population exposed to **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).** It emphasized that the risk of GLOFs increases with distance from a glacial lake.

Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)

- **About**: Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) is a type of flood that occurs when a glacier-contained water body is suddenly released.
- **Causes of GLOF**: GLOFs happen when the natural dam formed by a glacial lake fails, allowing the stored water to flow rapidly.
- **Formation of Proglacial Lakes**: Retreating glaciers, especially in regions like the Himalayas, often create proglacial lakes. These lakes are typically held in place by sediments and boulders.
- **Breaching Boundaries**: If the boundaries of these proglacial lakes are breached, a significant volume of water rushes into nearby streams and rivers. This rushing water picks up sediments, rocks, and other debris, causing downstream flooding.

Key GLOF Features

- They involve sudden and sometimes **cyclic water releases**.
- GLOFs are typically rapid events**, lasting for hours to days**.
- They result in a **substantial increase in downstream river discharge**, often by an order of magnitude.

Glaciers

- **Formation**: Glaciers begin as fallen snow that **gradually compresses into thickened ice masses** over time. This transformation occurs when snow accumulates and remains in one place for an extended period.
- **Distribution**: Glaciers can be found on **every continent except Australia**, with some of them dating back hundreds of thousands of years.
- **Himalayan Glaciers**: A significant concentration of **glaciers is situated in the Himalayas**, which span India's extensive northern border.

DTE Oct 5

BLUEWALKER 3 SATELLITE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Sci and Tech)

Brightest object in night sky not a star: BlueWalker 3 satellite for cellular broadband interferes with astronomical studies

Context: Recently launched test satellite **BlueWalker 3** shines as brightly as the brightest stars in Canis Minor and Eridanus constellations, as per a recent study.

- Satellites such as **BlueWalker 3 could also present** an additional source of noise for radio astronomy.

BlueWalker 3 Satellite

- **About**: It is part of AST SpaceMobile's ambitious 5G communications system, designed to connect everyday smartphones globally.
  - Its remarkable brightness results from a massive phased-array antenna, making it appear like a giant mirror reflecting sunlight from Earth's perspective.
  - BlueWalker 3 is considered the largest commercial antenna system ever deployed in low-Earth orbit.
- **Launch Date**: It was launched into orbit on September 10, 2022.
- **Purpose:** To establish direct communication with cellular devices using 3GPP standard frequencies, delivering data at 5G speeds.
- **Brightness in the Night Sky**: Observations of BlueWalker 3 revealed that it stands out as one of the brightest objects in the night sky, surpassing all celestial objects except for the brightest stars, according to researchers.

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