



## 1. Digital Services Act

Topic: International Relations



**In News:** The European Union (EU) has confirmed the names of 19 platforms that will be subject to its Digital Service Act.

### More on the Topic

- Five subsidiaries of Google’s parent Alphabet, two Meta units, two Microsoft businesses, Apple’s AppStore, Twitter, and Alibaba’s AliExpress are among the entities that the EU has identified.
- The rules notified under the Digital Services Act (DSA), aim at overhauling the EU’s social media and e-commerce rules, and at tightly regulating the way big technology platforms moderate user content.

### Key features of the Digital Services Act:

- **Faster removals and provisions to challenge:** As part of the overhaul, social media companies will have to add “**new procedures for faster removal**” of content deemed **illegal or harmful**. They will also have to explain to users how their content takedown policy works.



- **Bigger platforms have greater responsibility:** The legislation does not subscribe to a one-size fits all approach, and places increased **accountability on the Big Tech companies.**
- Under the DSA, **‘Very Large Online Platforms’ (VLOPs) and ‘Very Large Online Search Engines’ (VLOSEs)** — that is, platforms having more than 45 million users in the EU, will have more stringent requirements.
- **Direct supervision by the European Commission:** These requirements and their enforcement will be **centrally supervised by the European Commission itself.**
- **More transparency on how algorithms work:** VLOPs and VLOSEs will face transparency measures and scrutiny of how their algorithms work, and will be required to conduct **systemic risk analysis and reduction to drive accountability about the society impacts of their products.**
- VLOPs must allow regulators to access their data to assess compliance and allow researchers to access their data to identify systemic risks of illegal or harmful content.
- **Clearer identifiers for ads and who’s paying for them:** Online platforms must ensure that users can easily identify advertisements and understand who presents or pays for the advertisement.

#### Indian Online Laws:

- In February 2021, India had notified extensive changes to its social media regulations in the form of the Information Technology Rules, 2021 (IT Rules) which placed significant **due-diligence requirements on large social media platforms such as Meta and Twitter.**
- These included **appointing key personnel to handle law enforcement requests and user grievances, enabling identification of the first originator of the information** on its platform under certain conditions, and **deploying technology-based measures** on a best-effort basis to identify certain types of content.

Source: Indian Express

---



## 2. OECD Information Exchange Framework

**Topic: International Relations**



**In News:** India is demanding to widen the scope of the common reporting standard (CRS) at the G20 grouping to include non-financial assets like real estate properties under the automatic exchange of information among OECD countries.

### **More on the Topic:**

- AEOI is the systematic and **periodic collection and transmission of “bulk” taxpayer information by the source country to the country of residence of the taxpayer**, without the latter having to make a request for the same.
- Exchange of information by AEOI is permitted under provisions of DTAA's and under the **Multilateral Convention (MAAC)**. It is to be carried out under the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) of OECD.
- At present, the OECD's Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) framework provides for sharing of financial account details among signatory countries with **an aim to check tax evasion**.
- In August 2022, the OECD also approved **the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF)** which provides for the reporting of tax information on transactions in Crypto-Assets in a standardised manner, with a view to automatically exchanging such information.
- As per the OECD's Tax Transparency report Asian nations have estimated to have lost €25 billion in revenue in 2016 to tax evasion.

### **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):**

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international, intergovernmental economic organization of **38 countries with market economies that work with each other, as well as with more than 70 non-member economies to promote economic growth, prosperity, and sustainable development.**
- The organisation's headquarters is at the Chateau de la Muette in Paris, France.
- OECD provides its members with a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems.

Source: PIB

---

### 3. Indian Nuclear Liability Law

Topic: Polity and Governance



**In News:** The issues regarding India's nuclear liability law continue to hold up the more than a decade-old plan to build six nuclear power reactors in Maharashtra's Jaitapur, the world's biggest nuclear power generation site under consideration at present.

#### More on the Topic:

- Laws on civil nuclear liability ensure that compensation is available to the victims for nuclear damage caused by a nuclear incident or disaster and set out who will be liable for those damages.



- The international nuclear liability regime consists of multiple treaties and was strengthened after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident.
- **The umbrella Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) was adopted in 1997 with the aim of establishing a minimum national compensation amount.**
- The amount can further be increased through public funds, (to be made available by the contracting parties), should the national amount be insufficient to compensate the damage caused by a nuclear incident.

#### **India and Enacting of civil nuclear liability Law:**

- Even though India was a signatory to the CSC, Parliament ratified the convention only in 2016.
- To keep in line with the international convention, **India enacted the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) in 2010**, to put in place a speedy compensation mechanism for victims of a nuclear accident.
- The CLNDA provides for strict and **no-fault liability on the operator of the nuclear plant**, where it will be **held liable for damage regardless of any fault on its part.**
- The Act also specifies the limitations on the amount and time when action for compensation can be brought against the operator.
- India currently has 22 nuclear reactors with over a dozen more projects planned. All the existing reactors are operated by the state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

#### **What does the CLNDA say on supplier liability?**

- CSC is based on principle of **exclusive liability of the operator of a nuclear installation and no other person.** It lays down conditions under which national laws can extract liability from the supplier.
- one, if it is expressly agreed upon in the contract or two, if the nuclear incident “results from an act or omission done with intent to cause damage”.
- However, India, going beyond these conditions, introduced the concept of supplier liability over and above that of the operator’s in CLNDA.
- This has make suppliers of nuclear equipment wary of operationalising nuclear deals with India.
- The architects of the law recognised that defective parts were partly responsible for historical incidents such as the Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984 and added the clause on supplier liability.

#### **Why is the supplier liability clause an issue in nuclear deals?**

- Concerns about potentially getting exposed to unlimited liability under the CLNDA and ambiguity over how much insurance to set aside in case of damage claims have been sticking points for suppliers.

**Source: Hindu**

---



## 4.Default Bail

**Topic: Polity and Governance**



**In News:** Supreme Court held that the relief of statutory bail under Section 167(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code, is a fundamental right under Article 21.

**More on the Topic:**

- According to section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), an accused will be entitled to default bail if the investigating agency fails to file a charge sheet within 60 days from the date of remand.
- For certain category of offences, the stipulated period can be extended till 90 days.

**Source: Indian Express**

---

## 5. Triple Tests for Surrogacy

**Topic: Polity and Governance**



### Who can opt for surrogacy?

- Indian citizens who have been married for at least five years
- Woman should be aged 23-50 and the man, 26-55 years
- Couple shouldn't have any surviving child (biological, adopted or surrogate), except one who is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from a life-threatening disorder or fatal illness.

---

### Who can be a surrogate mother?

- A close relative of the couple
- A married woman with a child of her own, aged 25-35
- She can be a surrogate mother only once in her lifetime
- Should be certified as medically and psychologically fit

**In News:** Karnataka High Court has set a test with three conditions to check the eligibility of surrogacy.

### More on the Topic:

- The proposed triple test include a genetic test, a physical test, and an economic test.
- The genetic test is being conducted to confirm whether the embryo could be genetically healthy in the context of sperm and egg cells which would contribute genetic material to it.
- The physical test will check if the couple is physically able to raise the child.
- The economic test is being done to verify if the prospective parents are economically sound so as to not put the child in financial difficulty.

**Source: Business Standard**



## 6. Hemis and Thiksey Monasteries

**Topic: Culture**



**In News:** Delegates of G20 summit visited Hemis and Thiksey Monasteries.

### **More on the Topic:**

- Thikse Gompa or Thikse Monastery is a gompa affiliated with the Gelug sect of Tibetan Buddhism.
- It is located on top of a hill in Leh, Ladakh, India.
- It is also known for its annual Gustor Festival.
- Hemis Monastery Hemis Monastery is a Himalayan Buddhist monastery situated in the banks of Indus River, in Ladakh.
- It belongs to Dragon Order of Mahayana Buddhism (or the Drupka Lineage).
- The annual Hemis festival honouring Padmasambhava is held there in early June.

**Source: Business Standard**





## 7. NET Zero Innovation Virtual Centre

**Topic: International Relations**



**In News:** India and the UK will jointly establish the India-UK 'Net Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre.

**More on the Topic:**

- It will provide a platform to bring stakeholders from both countries together to work in some of the focus areas including Decarbonization of manufacturing process & transport systems and Green Hydrogen as renewable source.
- It was announced during the India-UK Science & Innovation Council meeting

**Source: Business Standard**

---