

12th August 2024

Draft of Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2024

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has prepared the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2024 which will replace the Television Network Act of 1995.

Background

- ❖ This Bill revises the 2023 draft released by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, aiming to consolidate the legal framework for the broadcasting sector and extend it to OTT content and digital news.

What are its key features?


- ❖ **Coverage:** The updated Bill introduces 'digital news broadcasters', covering individuals and entities producing online news and current affairs content, including newsletters, social media posts, podcasts, and videos.
- ❖ The Bill addresses concerns about non-traditional media creators being subject to obligations similar to those for streaming platforms.
- ❖ **Definition of 'professional':** It defines 'professional' as anyone engaged in systematic or structured activities and expands the definition of 'news and current affairs programmes' to include textual content alongside traditional formats. Thus, individuals offering tax advice on platforms like YouTube or frequently posting news updates on Twitter could be classified as digital news broadcasters and subjected to the Bill's regulations.
- ❖ The Bill revises the definitions of 'programme' and 'broadcasting' to include textual content, ensuring it covers all online content related to news. For instance, a chartered accountant providing financial advice on YouTube or a journalist sharing updates on Twitter could fall under this regulatory framework. These updates aim to ensure the legislation keeps pace with the evolving digital media landscape.
- ❖ **Change in definition of 'intermediary':** The Bill also broadens the definition of 'intermediary' to include internet service providers, social media platforms, online search engines, and marketplaces.


- ❖ **Non Compliance:** The penalties for failing to appoint such a committee can be severe. News creators who do not inform the Central Government about the members of their CEC will be fined Rs 50 lakh for the first violation and Rs 2.5 crore for subsequent violations within three years.

Person In News- Worldwide

<p>Kamel Madouri</p>	<p>He has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Tunisia.</p> <p>Tunisia is bordered by two neighboring nations: Libya to the southeast and Algeria to the west and southwest.</p>	
<p>Robert "Kelly" Ortberg</p>	<p>He has been appointed as the new CEO of Boeing.</p>	

Person In News- Obituary

<p>Tsung-Dao Lee</p>	<p>He was a Chinese-born American Nobel Prize winner in Physics, renowned for his contributions to high-energy physics and his role in advancing China's science education. He passed away recently.</p>	
-----------------------------	--	---

Gandhian Ranade	Shobhana She was a renowned <i>Gandhian social worker</i> who passed away in Pune at the age of 99.	
--------------------	--	---

Awards/Titles

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The government announced recipients of the prestigious Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar. ❖ The award ceremony will be held on August 23rd, 2024, coinciding with the celebration of National Space Day. ❖ Domains: The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar has been given in the following 13 domains, namely: Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology & Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology, and others. ❖ Vigyan Ratna: G. Padmanabhan, a noted biochemist and former director of the Indian Institute of Science. ❖ Vigyan Shri: Thirteen scientists from fields like physics, chemistry, and earth sciences. ❖ Vigyan Yuva: Eighteen young scientists recognized for their outstanding contributions. ❖ Vigyan Team Award: The team from ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission.
---------------------------	---

Important News- Other States

Chhattisgarh	<p>The Chhattisgarh government decided to declare a new tiger reserve, covering areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and the Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary in the state.</p> <p>The new reserve, called the 'Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve', will be the fourth in the state after Indravati (Bijapur), Udanti-Sitanadi (Gariaband) and Achanakmar (Mungeli).</p>
Odisha	<p>The Odisha government has introduced India's first round-the-clock grain ATM, also known as the 'rice ATM,' to revolutionise the Public Distribution System (PDS) for ration cardholders.</p>
West Bengal	<p>The West Bengal government and UNICEF have teamed up to encourage fathers to play an active role in promoting breastfeeding among new mothers</p>

Miscellaneous

- ❖ Indian Railways will start roll-out of updated **Kavach 4.0** across its network **October onwards**. It is the indigenous automated train protection system.
- ❖ The Central Government has exceeded its goal for setting up **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs)**, with **173,881** centers now in operation as of July 31. This program, which began in **February 2018** under the **Ayushman Bharat** scheme, originally aimed to establish **150,000** health and wellness centers by **December 2022**.

○○○○

