

**09<sup>th</sup> August, 2024**

### Governance

#### Broadcast Services Bill 2024



**Context:** The Indian Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has introduced the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2024, aiming to regulate digital content, including news, on platforms like YouTube, Instagram, and X. This has raised concerns about potential limitations on freedom of speech.

#### Expansion of Regulatory Scope

- ❖ The bill significantly broadens its regulatory purview compared to previous drafts. It now encompasses:
  - Over-The-Top (OTT) content
  - Digital news
  - Social media platforms
  - Independent content creators

Definition of 'Digital News Broadcaster'

- ❖ The bill's definition of a "digital news broadcaster" has been expanded to include:
  - Individuals
  - Groups
- ❖ Entities publishing news online for commercial purposes This broad definition grants the government extensive regulatory power over online content.

### International Relation

#### India to Host First BIMSTEC Business Summit

**Context:** India is set to host the inaugural BIMSTEC Business Summit on August 6, 2024, in New Delhi. Organized jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), the summit aims to strengthen economic cooperation among BIMSTEC member nations.



### Key Objectives

- ❖ The summit seeks to foster robust trade and investment relations between BIMSTEC countries.
- ❖ It will provide a platform for high-level discussions on enhancing regional economic integration and exploring opportunities for collaboration in key sectors.

### Inauguration and Participants

- ❖ External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will inaugurate the summit, with keynote addresses by Commerce and Industries Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and other dignitaries.
- ❖ Over 300 delegates, including trade and industry ministers, government officials, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and industry representatives from BIMSTEC member states, will participate in the event.

### Defence

#### India Conducts Large-Scale Military Exercise in Eastern Ladakh

**Context:** India is currently undertaking a major military exercise in Eastern Ladakh involving all branches of its armed forces. This maneuver is a direct response to the ongoing tensions with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).



### Objective of the Exercise

- ❖ The primary aim of the exercise is to assess and enhance the Indian Army's preparedness for rapid response to potential conflicts.
- ❖ The maneuvers are strategically positioned in known sensitive areas.

### Troop Deployment and Infrastructure

- ❖ To counter increased Chinese military activity since 2020, India has maintained a substantial troop presence of approximately 50,000 soldiers in Eastern Ladakh.
- ❖ A robust infrastructure, including accommodation, all-weather roads, and communication systems, has been developed over the past four years to support operations in the region's harsh climate.

### Strategic Reorientation

- ❖ The Galwan clash in June 2020 marked a pivotal shift in India's military focus from Pakistan to the northern border with China.

- ❖ The 1 Strike Corps is now dedicated to Ladakh operations, while the 17 Mountain Strike Corps is responsible for the Northeast and Sikkim regions.
- ❖ The ongoing exercise incorporates advanced technologies such as loitering munitions, swarm drones, counter-drone systems, and enhanced surveillance capabilities to address the evolving challenges posed by China.

### Personalities In News

**Muhammad Yunus: Nobel Laureate and Interim Chief Adviser**

**Context:** Muhammad Yunus, renowned economist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, has been appointed as the chief adviser to Bangladesh's interim government. This decision follows the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina amid widespread protests. The appointment was announced by Army Chief Waker-uz-Zaman in response to growing unrest over government job quotas.



### A Profile of Muhammad Yunus

- ❖ Born in 1940 in Chittagong, Bangladesh, Yunus is a distinguished economist with a PhD from Vanderbilt University.
- ❖ Post-independence, he served as the head of the economics department at Chittagong University.
- ❖ Yunus is globally recognized for pioneering the concept of microcredit, which involves providing small, collateral-free loans to impoverished entrepreneurs lacking access to traditional banking.

### The Grameen Bank and Microcredit Revolution

- ❖ In 1983, Yunus founded Grameen Bank, a pioneering institution in microfinance. The bank has disbursed over \$34 billion in loans to nearly 10 million people, achieving an impressive 97% repayment rate.

- ❖ *Grameen Bank's success has inspired similar initiatives worldwide, and Yunus, along with the bank, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their contributions to economic and social development*



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