



10 July, 2024

Safe harbour clause for online content

Context: Asian News International (ANI) has filed a case in the Delhi High Court against Wikipedia, alleging that defamatory content is present on ANI's Wikipedia page.

➤ Complaint against Wikipedia by ANI:

- ANI has filed a case in Delhi High Court seeking damages of Rs 2 crore.
- Allegations include presence of allegedly false and defamatory content on ANI's Wikipedia page.
- Petition claims deliberate edits to harm ANI's reputation were made in May, reversing earlier corrections.

➤ Content on Wikipedia:

- Wikipedia, established in 2001, operates as a collaborative, open-source platform.
- Users contribute to the content, and Wikipedia itself does not create or produce the information.

➤ Legal Framework Invoked:

- ANI argues Wikipedia qualifies as a significant social media intermediary under Section 2(1)(w) of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- Sections 79(2) and (3) of the IT Act provide conditions for the safe harbour clause.
- Safe harbour protection applies if intermediaries comply with the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code.

Safe harbour clause

➤ Conditions for Protection:

- No Initiation: The intermediary should not initiate the transmission of the message.
- No Selection of Receiver: The intermediary should not select the receiver of the transmitted message.
- No Modification: The intermediary should not modify any information contained in the transmission.

➤ Compliance with Guidelines:

- Intermediaries must adhere to the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code, which include setting up grievance redressal mechanisms, appointing grievance officers, chief compliance officers, and nodal contact persons.

➤ Immediate Action on Notice:

- If the intermediary is informed by the government or its agencies about objectionable content, they must promptly remove or disable access to the material.

➤ Preservation of Evidence:

- Intermediaries must not tamper with any evidence related to the objectionable content on their platforms. Failure to comply may result in losing the protection under the safe harbour clause.

➤ Exemption from Liability:

- If an intermediary meets the conditions of the safe harbour clause, they are exempt from legal or any

other liability for third-party information, data, or communication links made available or hosted on their platform.

➤ Impact and Scope:

- The safe harbour clause aims to balance the need for freedom of expression and the responsibility of intermediaries to regulate content. It encourages platforms to act swiftly in removing illegal or offensive content while protecting them from undue legal repercussions.

Court Precedents and Rulings:

- Supreme Court rulings have highlighted the reliance on Wikipedia in legal contexts but cautioned against its complete reliability.
- Previous dismissals of petitions challenging Wikipedia content indicate courts' stance on seeking alternative legal remedies.

RBI's Employment Estimates

Context: According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), employment growth in the country surged by nearly 6% in fiscal year 2023-24, up from a 3.2% increase recorded in FY2023.

➤ RBI's Employment Growth Data (FY2023-24):

- The RBI's Measuring Productivity at the Industry Level-The India KLEMS (Capital, Labour, Energy, Material, Services) database reported a 6% growth in employment for FY2023-24.
- Total employment increased by approximately 4.67 crore to reach 64.33 crore jobs, up from 59.67 crore in FY2022-23.

➤ What is KLEMS?

- KLEMS stands for Capital (K), Labour (L), Energy (E), Material (M), and Services (S).
- It is a comprehensive database used by the RBI to measure productivity and employment across 27 industries in India's economy.
- It provides detailed estimates at both sectoral and national levels:
 - Gross Value Added (GVA),
 - Gross Value of Output (GVO),
 - Labour Employment (L),
 - Labour Quality (LQ),
 - Capital Stock (K),
 - Capital Composition (KQ),
 - Energy (E),
 - Material (M),
 - Services (S) inputs,
 - Labour Productivity (LP), and
 - Total Factor Productivity (TFP).

➤ Comparison with Previous Years:

- In FY2021, India added 7.8 crore jobs with a growth rate of 5.1%.

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- The growth rate for FY2022 was 3.3%.
- FY2023 saw a growth rate of 3.2%.
- **Ministry of Statistics PLFS Data (January-March 2024):**
 - The urban unemployment rate decreased to 6.7%.
 - The female unemployment rate declined to 8.5%.
 - The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased to 50.2%.
 - The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) increased to 46.9%.
 - Female WPR in urban areas rose to 23.4%.

Vulnerability of Soil in India

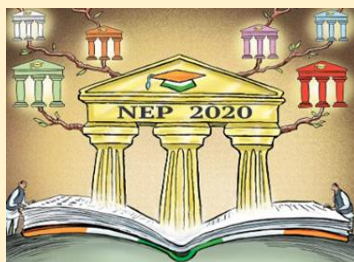
Context: A recent study has revealed that nearly half of India's soil cover is susceptible to floods, while about one-third of it is prone to droughts.

- **Overview of Soil Moisture Anomalies in India (2023):**
 - Approximately 32.8% of India's land area experienced negative Soil Moisture Anomaly (SMA), indicating vulnerability to drought stress, covering about 1.08 million square kilometers.
 - Conversely, about 47.7% of India's geographical area saw soil moisture levels exceeding historical averages, totaling about 1.57 million square kilometers, increasing risks of flooding.
- **Impact on Agriculture and Water Resources:**
 - The study highlights how these soil moisture conditions affect agricultural productivity and water resource management across India.
 - Fluctuations in soil moisture directly impact crop yields, water availability, and food security, necessitating tailored water management policies.

- **Seasonal Assessment of Soil Moisture Anomalies:**
 - Detailed state-wise assessment includes seasonal breakdowns (seasons analyzed: seasonal, pre-monsoon, monsoon, post-monsoon SMA).
 - Notable findings include deficits during June-September (-2.1 mm across 498,677 sq km) and positives during December-February in Punjab, contrasting with deficits in Odisha.
- **State-Wise Analysis:**
 - Punjab benefitted from positive soil moisture anomalies during winter months, enhancing agriculture productivity.
 - States like Odisha and Bihar showed negative SMA, highlighting the need for improved irrigation and water conservation methods.
- **Regional Disparities and Mitigation Strategies:**
 - Variations in soil moisture levels necessitate region-specific water management strategies.
 - Suggestions include adopting effective irrigation techniques and sharing best practices between states to optimize water usage and enhance agricultural output.
- **Recommendations for Policy and Technology Integration:**
 - The study recommends developing policies tailored to manage drought and flood conditions based on real-time soil moisture data.
 - Investing in advanced soil moisture monitoring systems using remote sensing and ground-based sensors is proposed to improve decision-making in water management.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

National Education Policy



Recently, the Union Education Ministry began a two-day meeting to review the progress of the National Education Policy's implementation in States and Union Territories.

About the National Education Policy:

- The National Education Policy (NEP) **2020** was approved by the Union Cabinet on July **29, 2020**.
- It is the **first education policy of the 21st century** in India, which replaces the previous **National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986**.
- It **aims** to transform India's education system **by 2040**, focusing on making it more holistic, flexible and multidisciplinary.
- It seeks to align education to the needs of the **21st century** and bring out the unique capabilities of each student.
- Introduction of a new curricular **structure: 5+3+3+4 design**, corresponding to **ages 3-8 years** (Foundational Stage), **8-11 years** (Preparatory Stage), **11-14 years** (Middle Stage), and **14-18 years** (Secondary Stage).
- Teacher education emphasizes a shift to a minimum **4-year integrated B.Ed. degree by 2030** and continuous professional development for educators.
- Multilingualism focuses on using the mother tongue or local language as the medium of instruction until **Grade 5**, and preferably till **Grade 8** and beyond, while promoting multilingualism in schools and higher education.

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Minimum Support Price



Recently, issues like Minimum Support Price (MSP) and loan waivers have become crucial for farmers.

About Minimum Support Price:

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a **form of market intervention by the Government of India** to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- The **Government announces MSP** at the **beginning of the sowing season** based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- The objectives of MSP are to **stabilize agricultural prices** and **provide a remunerative price environment, protect farmers from distress sales** ensuring they receive a fair return and **ensure adequate food supply** to enhance food security by encouraging production.
- When the **Green Revolution** began in the **1960s**, India sought to bolster its food reserves and prevent shortages.
- The MSP system was **initiated in 1966-67 for wheat** and subsequently extended to other essential food crops, which were then sold to the poor at subsidized rates under the public distribution system.
- Government agencies like the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** and **State Agencies** procure the produce from farmers at the MSP.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation



Recently, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) stated that it will invest about 2 lakh crore in setting up renewable energy sites and green hydrogen plants and cutting gas flaring to zero to achieve its 2038 net-zero carbon emission goal.

About the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation:

- The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is a public sector undertaking that is wholly **owned by the Indian government**.
- It is the **largest crude oil** and natural gas Company in India, **contributing around 71 per cent to Indian domestic production**.
- It was conferred with '**Maharatna**' status by the Government of India in November **2010**.
- It ranked **158th globally and 4th in India in the 2023 Fortune Global 500 List**.
- It supplies crude oil to downstream companies such as **IOC, BPCL, HPCL and MRPL** (which are subsidiaries of ONGC) for the production of various petroleum products including **Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene, Naphtha and Cooking Gas LPG**.
- The company's operations are managed by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- It was established in **1956** and is involved in a variety of business ventures, including exploration, production, refining, and distribution of petroleum products.
- The foundation stone for ONGC was laid in **1955** as the Oil and Gas Division under the Geological Survey of India.
- Its headquarter is located in **New Delhi**.

Kuki/Zo Tribes



Recently, the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), an apex body of Kuki tribes in Manipur, called for a 12-hour shutdown across all Kuki-Zo dominated districts of the state.

About the Kuki/Zo Tribes:

- The Kuki/Zo tribes are the **third largest community** in **Manipur**, constituting about 16% of the population.
- They are predominantly found in the **northeastern states of India**, particularly in **Manipur, Mizoram, Assam and Nagaland** and also present in Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- They speak various dialects belonging to the **Tibeto-Burman language** family.
- They are the part of the larger **Chin-Kuki-Mizo ethnic group**.
- About **50 Kuki tribes** in India are recognized as **scheduled tribes**, based on their dialect and region of origin.
- They have rich cultural traditions with vibrant festivals, dances and music, including important festivals like **Kut** (harvest festival), **Mim Kut** and **Chapchar Kut**.
- They are primarily agrarian, **practicing jhum** (shifting) cultivation and also engage in hunting, fishing, and **handicrafts**.

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Place in News

United Arab Emirates

Recently, the 12th meeting of the India-UAE Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) concluded in Abu Dhabi, marking a significant advancement in strengthening defense relations between the two nations.

United Arab Emirates (Capital: Abu Dhabi)

Location: United Arab Emirates is a country located in West Asia.

Boundaries: United Arab Emirates shares its borders with **Oman** (East), **Persian Gulf** (North), **Saudi Arabia** (South and West) and **Qatar** (Northwest).

Physical Features:

- The highest point in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is **Jebel Jais**.
- The **Burj Khalifa** in Dubai, the world's tallest building
- The UAE has a desert climate with very hot summers and warm winters.
- The United Arab Emirates is **rich in petroleum, natural gas, limestone, gypsum, marble, chromite, copper, sulfur** and abundant sand and gravel.

Membership: It is a member of various international organizations, including the **United Nations, OPEC** and the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**.



POINTS TO PONDER

- Where is the Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve (BRT) located? – **Karnataka**
- Which state government has announced the establishment of 'Mitra Van' under Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024? – **Uttar Pradesh**
- Which country developed the Sentinel Nuclear Missile? – **USA**
- What is the primary function of 'Regenerative Braking'? – **To convert kinetic energy into electrical power**
- Panchganga River, recently seen in news, is a tributary of which river? – **Krishna**

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