

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (TRAI)

The Telecom Regulatory Authority Of India (TRAI) recently announced to change the rules regarding fake, promotional calls and SMS to customers.



About Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI):

- It is a regulatory body set up by the Government of India under section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- It is the regulator of the telecommunications sector in India.
- **Composition:**
 - It consists of a Chairperson and not more than two full-time members, and not more than two part-time members.
 - The chairperson and the members of TRAI are appointed by the Central Government, and the duration for which they can hold their office is three years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- **Government Control over TRAI:**
 - TRAI is not a completely independent telecom regulator.
 - Under section 25 of the Act, it has the power to issue directions which are binding on TRAI.
 - The TRAI is also funded by the Central Government.
- **Functions:**
 - Making recommendations on various issues;
 - General administrative and regulatory functions;
 - Fixing tariffs and rates for telecom services; and
 - Any other functions entrusted by the Central Government.
- The recommendations made by the TRAI are not binding on the Central Government.
- Central Government has to mandatorily ask for recommendations from TRAI with respect to the need and timing of new service providers and the terms and conditions of the licence to be granted to the service provider.

- TRAI also has the power to notify in the official gazette the rates at which telecommunication services are being provided in and outside India.
- The TRAI Act was amended in 2000, establishing a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT):

- It was set up to adjudicate any dispute between a licensor and a licensee, between two or more service providers, between a service provider and a group of consumers, and to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction, decision or order of TRAI.
- **Composition:**
 - The Tribunal consists of a Chairperson and two Members appointed by the Central Government.
 - The Chairperson should be or should have been a Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court.
 - A Member should have held the post of Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the Central Government or the State Government for a period of not less than two years or a person who is well versed in the field of technology, telecommunication, industry, commerce or administration.

NATIONAL GREEN HYDROGEN MISSION

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways recently said that as per the National Hydrogen Mission of the country, Green Hydrogen/Ammonia bunkers and refuelling facilities will be established in all major ports by 2035.



About National Green Hydrogen Mission:

- It was approved by the Union Cabinet on 4 January 2022.
- Aim: To make India a Global Hub for the production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.

- The mission **outcomes projected by 2030** are:
 - **Development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum** with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the country;
 - Over Rs. **Eight lakh crore in total investments**;
 - Creation of over **Six lakh jobs**;
 - Cumulative **reduction in fossil fuel imports** over Rs. One lakh crore;
 - **Abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions**;

Types of Hydrogen based on Extraction Methods:

- **Grey Hydrogen:** It is produced via coal or lignite gasification (black or brown), or via a process called steam methane reformation (SMR) of natural gas or methane (grey). These tend to be mostly carbon-intensive processes.
- **Blue Hydrogen:** It is produced via natural gas or coal gasification combined with carbon capture storage (CCS) or carbon capture use (CCU) technologies to reduce carbon emissions.
- **Green Hydrogen:** It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy. The carbon intensity ultimately depends on the carbon neutrality of the source of electricity (i.e., the more renewable energy there is in the electricity fuel mix, the "greener" the hydrogen produced).

WHAT IS INSOMNIA?

According to recent research, people who have insomnia are 69 per cent more likely to experience a heart attack than those who don't during an average nine years of follow-up.



About Insomnia:

- **What is it?** It is a common sleep disorder that can make it hard to fall asleep, hard to stay asleep or cause you to wake up too early and not be able to get back to sleep.

- The condition can be **short-term (acute)** or can last a **long time (chronic)**. It may also come and go.
- Acute insomnia lasts from **1 night to a few weeks**. Insomnia is **chronic when it happens at least 3 nights a week for 3 months or more**.
- It **affects women more than men** and older people more than younger ones.
- Insomnia may play a role in the development of chronic diseases, such as: obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, depression.
- **Types of Insomnia:**
 - **Primary insomnia:** This means **your sleep problems aren't linked to any other health condition** or problem.
 - **Secondary insomnia:** This means you have **trouble sleeping because of a health condition** (like asthma, depression, arthritis, cancer, or heartburn); pain; medication; or substance use (like alcohol).
- **Causes:**
 - **Stress-related to big life events**, like a job loss or change, the death of a loved one etc.
 - **Things around you**, like noise, light, or temperature
 - **Changes to your sleep schedule** like jet lag, a new shift at work, or bad habits you picked up when you had other sleep problems.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO)

India recently announced that it will start participating in the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027.



- About International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO):**
- ICAO is an **intergovernmental specialized agency associated with the United Nations (UN)**.
 - It was **established in 1947** by the Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944) known as **Chicago Convention**.

- **Headquarters: Montreal, Canada**
- **Functions:**
 - ICAO is dedicated to **developing safe and efficient international air transport** for peaceful purposes and ensuring a reasonable opportunity for every state to operate international airlines.
 - It sets **standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security** and facilitation, efficiency, and **economic development of air transport** as well as to improve the environmental performance of aviation.
 - It also serves as a **clearinghouse for cooperation and discussion on civil aviation issues** among its 193 member states.
 - It also **promotes regional and international agreements** aimed at liberalizing aviation markets.
 - It helps to **establish legal standards to ensure that the growth of aviation does not compromise safety**, and encourages the development of other aspects of international aviation law.

What is Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)?

- It is a **global market-based measure designed to offset international aviation CO2 emissions** in order to stabilize the levels of such emissions.
- Offsetting of CO2 emissions will be **achieved through the acquisition and cancellation of emissions units from the global carbon market** by aeroplane operators.
- It **does not apply to domestic aviation**. Under it, **aircraft operators will begin monitoring their emissions from international flights** and begin acquiring offsets for their emissions growth.

UNIFIED LOGISTICS INTERFACE PLATFORM (ULIP)

Recently, the Secretary of, the Ministry of Coal chaired a meeting on the integration of the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) with the digital systems of the Ministry of Coal.



About Unified Logistics Interface Platform:

- It was launched in 2022 as a part of the ‘**National Logistics Policy (NLP)**’.
- It is designed for **enhancing efficiency and reducing the cost of logistics** in India by creating a transparent, single-window platform to provide real-time information to all stakeholders.
- It was emphasized that the solution should have visibility of **multi-modal transport** and all the existing systems should be integrated with the ULIP system to create a National Single Window Logistics Portal.
- It will provide **real-time monitoring of cargo movement** and ensure the confidentiality of data with end-to-end encryption.
- There are **three key components** of this platform namely
 - Integration with existing data sources of ministries
 - Data exchange with private players
 - Unified document reference in the supply chain

SAFETY CONCERNS OVER E-PHARMA PUT CENTRE IN A SPOT

Why in news?

- The Central Health Ministry is not willing to allow e-pharmacy platforms to operate without regulation and oversight.
- It believes that such a move would be too risky and could pose a significant threat to public health and safety.

What is E-pharmacy?

- E-pharmacy, also known as online pharmacy or internet pharmacy, is a digital platform that allows customers to purchase medicines and other health-related products over the internet.
- E-pharmacies are a form of e-commerce, where customers can browse through a wide range of medicines, medical devices, and health supplements and order them from the comfort of their own home.

What is the size of e-pharmacy Market in India?

- In 2021, the market for online pharmacies was worth ₹25.50 billion.

- It is anticipated to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 22.20% from 2022 to 2027 when it is expected to reach ₹89.47 billion.

What is the Legislative Framework for e-Pharmacies in India?

- As of now, **no exact rules are in place for E-drug stores in India**, and this is a significant inhibitor to the online drug store market in India.
- At present, E-pharmacies in India follow the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945, the Pharmacy Act 1948 and the Indian Medical Act 1956.
- However, the electronic sale of physician-prescribed drugs from online drug store sites is expressed under the **IT Act, 2000**.
- E-pharmacies are managed by state drug controllers and approvals for E-pharmacies should be given by the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)**.
- The MoH&FW in **2018** came out with **draft rules** to control the online offer of medications and availability of genuine drugs from certifiable online sites.



- But, after being sent to a group of ministers, the proposal was immediately put on hold.
- Since then, **multiple court orders** and the 172nd Parliamentary Standing Committee report have called for regulating e-pharmacies.
- **An administrative structure** to oversee/regulate the e-pharmacy sector is necessary when antimicrobial resistance (AMR), criminal and risky movement of drugs, is on the rise.

News Summary: Safety concerns over e-pharma put Centre in a spot

Why there is need for regulation and oversight of e-pharma in India?

- **Consumer safety**
 - There are concerns over the distribution of illegal or unethical medicines, or outdated, substituted, or counterfeit medications.
- **Other issues**
 - Unlimited accessibility to medicines through e-pharmacy, sale of sub-standard, habit-forming medicines [like sedatives, mood-altering drugs], profiling of patients and buyers, and illegal data collection are the main concerns.

- Drug abuse, misuse, self-medication, access to children etc. are problems that the e-pharma industry is currently facing.
 - Besides, there is no place or system to evaluate adverse drug reactions.
 - Also, there is no clarity on drug storage conditions and no system of immediate recall in case of drugs.
 - There is a general notion that vigilance must win over the perceived convenience and economics of the e-pharma market.
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SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: WHAT IS THE CENTRE'S STANCE IN THE SC HEARING?

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court of India is currently hearing the case seeking **legal recognition of same sex marriage**.
- While urging the Court to leave the issue to Parliament, the Centre argued that the law - the **Special Marriage Act (SMA) 1954** - cannot be re-drafted again to allow same-sex marriage.

What is the Case of the Same-sex marriage?

- Several petitioners have asked the court to recognise the same-sex marriages under the **Special Marriage Act (SMA) 1954**.
- The Act provides for the conditions relating to solemnization of special marriages **between any two persons**.
- As the case involved an interplay of constitutional rights (of transgender couples) and specific legislative enactments, the court had referred the pleas to a **Constitution Bench**.

What are the Arguments of Petitioners?

- **Marriage is a social status** which is bestowed by law and through which society accepts, respects and validates a couple.
- **Same-sex couples do not enjoy the rights of married couples** including the right to adopt or have children by surrogacy, automatic rights to inheritance, pension, maintenance and tax benefits.
- The SC has repeatedly said that all adults have the **right to marry a person of their choice**.

- **Non-recognition of same-sex marriage violates fundamental rights under -**
 - Articles 14 (right to equality before law),
 - Article 15 (right against discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth),
 - Article 19 (freedom of speech and expression), and
 - Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution.

SC's Previous Judgments on the Issue:

- **An adult person has the right to marry a person of their choice under Article 21** [Lata Singh vs State of UP (2006), Shafin Jahan vs Asokan KM (2018), and Laxmibai Chandaragi B vs The State of Karnataka (2021)].
- LGBTQ persons rights are founded on **sound constitutional doctrine** - right to life, privacy, dignity, liberty and freedom [KS Puttaswamy vs Union of India (2017)].
- The choice of whom to partner, the ability to find fulfilment in sexual intimacies and the right not to be subjected to discriminatory behaviour are intrinsic to the constitutional protection of sexual orientation [Navtej Singh Johar vs UOI (2018)].

Six Key Arguments of the Centre:

- **Religious definitions of marriage:** Various religions have always recognised marriage only between a man and a woman.
- **Legitimate interest of state:** Responding to the argument of the petitioners that the state can have no role in regulating personal relationships, the Centre said that the right to marry is always subject to the statutory regime.
- **The right to privacy:** The right to privacy cannot be extended to marriage. This is because consulting adults want societal acceptance of the relationship by way of marriage.
- **Parliament must decide:** There exists a democratic right of people to regulate themselves through their representatives in the Parliament.
 - There are a total **72 categories of genders falling within the LGBTQIA+** This would mean several permutations and combinations of marriage and specific problems arising therefrom.
- **Interpreting the law:** The entire architecture of the Special Marriage Act rather than examine a few words like husband, wife, etc., is required.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- **Effect on personal laws:** The personal laws will inevitably be affected even if the Court only looks at the Special Marriage Act.
 - **For example,** under Section 19 of the Special Marriage Act, the parties married lose their right to family property.
 - Although, they will continue to be governed under their personal laws in all other aspects such as divorce, inheritance and adoption.
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