



DAILY MAINS NEWSLETTER

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Mains Value Addition

Inter-marriages can reduce caste tensions

Syllabus – GS1: - Social empowerment, communalism, Salient aspects of Indian Society

Analysis: -

- The Supreme Court said in a recent judgment that the educated youngsters are showing the way forward to reduce caste and community tensions in India by tying the knot in inter-marriages.
- Educated younger boys and girls are choosing their life partners, which, in turn, is a departure

from the earlier norms of society where caste and community play a major role.

Leather puppets in the traditional Tholpavakkoothu are being animated by robots.

Syllabus – GS1: - Arts and Culture; GS3- Achievements of Indians in science & technology;

Analysis: -

- For the first time, the famous shadow leather puppets will tell stories of the epic Ramayana with the help of robots.
- When tradition meets modernity, the result can sometimes be amazing.
- A puppet with robotic movements may not sound very charming but in a melding of traditional art and cutting-edge technology, a shadow leather puppet in Kerala's famous temple art Tholpavakkoothu is being animated by a robot.

'Bad bank' idea

Syllabus –GS3- Banking Sector & NBFCs; Mobilization of Resources

Analysis: -

- To ensure that the 'bad bank' mechanism proposed in the Budget takes off, the Finance Ministry is planning to provide a guarantee against security receipts to be issued by the Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).



Mains Analysis

Self-regulation code for OTT

Why in News: - The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting prepared set of guidelines and directives code for the Internet-based industry also called Internet-based Over-The-Top (OTT) service code.

Syllabus: - **GS-3:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment and Disaster and disaster management.

Introduction: -

- India's Internet-based Over-The-Top (OTT) streaming services have operationalised a code of self-regulation.
- The inexorable growth of OTT channels has infused creative talent into film-making.
- The platform has been aided by the absence of overbearing censors and vested interests.
- Although it might be argued that it also has a small minority pursuing crass commercialism.

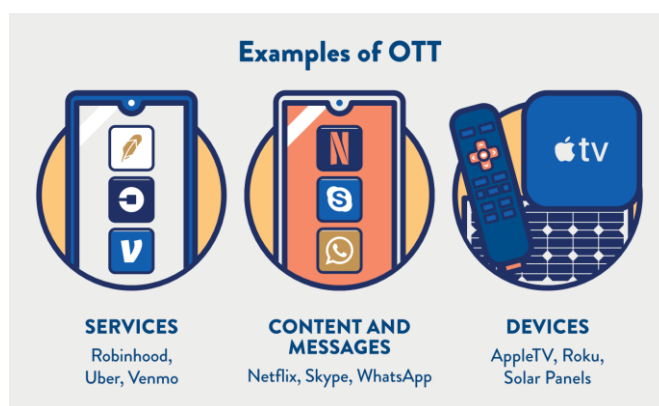
Need of Regulations on OTT: -

- COVID-19 buoyed subscription revenues from home-bound viewers for OTT ventures streaming films, reality shows, serials and documentaries, and with cinemas closed, even broke the industry taboo against online-first film releases.
- the urgency of this code arises from the gauntlet of police and court cases that film-makers and the channels are now having to run.

- Governments are also lending tacit support to the view that creative expression may be becoming too influential to be left free.
- It is time the Centre took a firm stand against displays of manufactured outrage and let newer channels of creativity flourish.
- There is a need for a level playing field for all media.
- To avoid a policed approach to films and media may only grow a monoculture of propaganda.

Recent Examples: -

1. The **FIRs in U.P. against the Amazon Prime Video series, Tandav**, invoked legal provisions on cyber terrorism, obscenity, promoting social enmity and defiling places of worship.
2. A plea **in M.P. on the same series seeking a court direction to bring OTT channels under censorship laws** indicate the growing oppressive environment.

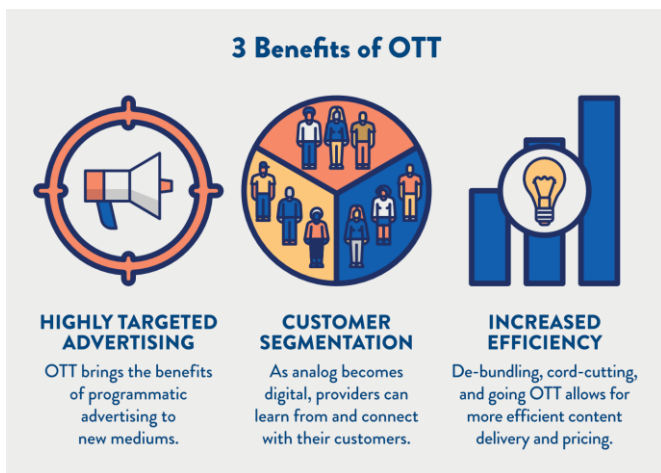


What are the Over-The-Top (OTT) services?

1. **Over-the-top (OTT) is platform where** Individuals who watch video via any app or website that provides streaming video

content and bypasses traditional distribution.

2. An over-the-top (OTT) is streaming media platform online service offered directly to **viewers through Internet**.
3. OTT bypasses cable, broadcast, and satellite television platforms, the companies that traditionally act as a controller or distributor of such content.
4. Examples include HBO Now, Hulu, Netflix, Amazon Video, YouTube/YouTube Red and SlingTV etc.



The Self-regulation of OTT:

1. The collective initiative of the OTT services under the aegis of **the Internet and Mobile Association of India** consisted voluntary code under different laws.
2. The Self-regulation **emphasis on abiding by the IPC, laws on women's and children's rights, copyright and age-appropriate certification and parental control**.
3. Also upholding **Constitutional provisions on free speech** should be given an

opportunity to work and value of Constitutional provisions.

The Internet and Mobile Association of India:

- IMAI is a not-for-profit industry body registered under "Societies Act, 1896".
- Its **mandate** is to expand and enhance the online and mobile value-added services sectors in India.
- The **main aims of the Internet and Mobile Association of India** is to improve and expand the value-added services pertaining to mobiles and several online services.

The recommendations of Shyam Benegal Committee:

- The Expert Committee on film certification chaired by **Shyam Benegal** in 2016 recommendations of the I&B Ministry's.
- The panel recommendations to **creative expression and full ownership** of any visual production, leaving viewing decisions to audiences.

Way Forward:

- The collective initiative of the OTT services under the aegis of the Internet and Mobile Association of India is consistent with the **recommendations of the I&B Ministry's Expert Committee on film certification** chaired by Shyam Benegal in 2016.
- The idea that films must be pre-censored and arbitrary cuts made by government-appointed

nominees, mostly out of prejudice, is antiquated and repugnant to liberal societies.

- A plethora of laws are available to assess, based on complaints to find whether there has been an egregious violation of law.
- This determination ought to be made by unimpeachable bodies representing a wide spectrum of civil society.
- A policed approach to films and media can only grow a monoculture of propaganda.

Question: -

How does the OTT platform work? List out the advantages and disadvantages of the Self-regulation code for OTT.

India's Climate change resilience actions

Why in News: - A well-equipped Australia is working with major economies to transfer technologies supporting lower global emissions.

Syllabus: - **GS-3:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment and Disaster and disaster management.

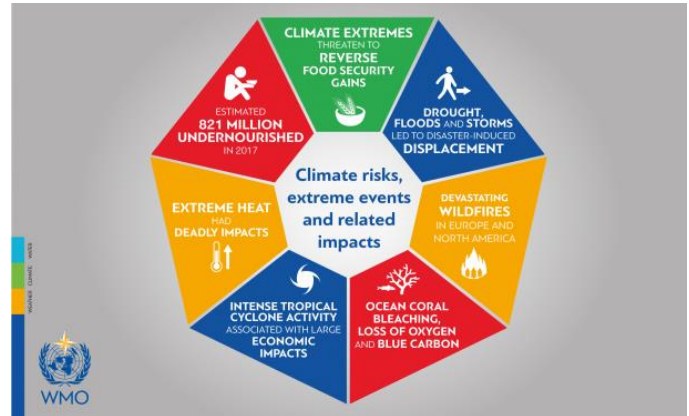
Question: -

The Climate change is an increasingly pressing global issue. Describe India's Climate change resilience actions?

Need for resilience action:

- The Climate change is an increasingly pressing global issue.
- It will require a collective will to ensure a sustainable future for our countries and for the world.

- It is critical to ensure global average temperatures stay well below 2° Centigrade and adapt and build resilience to the climate change already occurring.
- The world can reduce emissions by working together with each other.

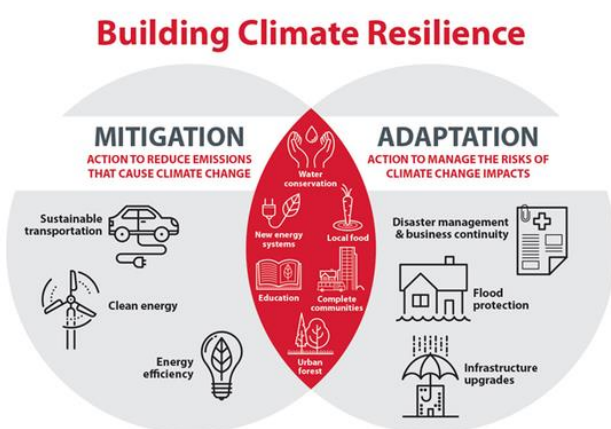


Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) Climate Adaptation Summit:

- The virtual Climate Adaptation Summit was hosted by the Netherlands and, Australia.
- It reaffirmed own commitment to ambitious and practical action to combat the impacts of climate change at home, in our region, and around the world.
- The Summit aims to help accelerate adaptation around the world, improve human well-being and result in more sustainable economic development and security.
- A **Global Call for Leadership** on Climate Resilience,' released in September 2019, and the Climate Action Summit's action *tracks*, food security, infrastructure, finance, urban resilience and nature-based solutions.

Objectives of Summit:

- To help **accelerate adaptation** around the world; improve human well-being and result in more sustainable economic development and security; and present its findings at the Climate Adaption Summit.
- The **valuable opportunity** to the international community for collective action to realise a more climate-resilient future.
- At the summit, **Australia reaffirmed** our commitment to ambitious and practical action to combat the impacts of climate change at home, in our region, and around the world.



Significance of Australia commitment:

1. Australia is one of the driest inhabited continents in the world and oldest living cultures and some of the **richest biodiversity** in the world.
2. World fortunate to learn for over 65,000 years their traditional knowledge and practices have preserved and protected Australia's natural environment.

3. The recent bushfires demonstrated the importance of bringing together traditional Indigenous knowledge about the land with modern science.
4. The **World may learn from Australia**, to preserving and protecting Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

The Australian efforts in Climate Change:

- Australia is aiming to leverage Rs.7,000 crore of new investment in low emissions technologies by 2030.
- Australia has committed over Rs. 1,500 crores to making our natural resources, environment and water infrastructure more resilient to drought and climate disasters.
- World are spending **more than Rs. 200 crores** on bushfire recovery efforts, supporting local communities to design their own economic, social and environmental recovery.
- The important job of regenerating habitats, helping native animals recover and building knowledge for better land management.
- **By July 2021, Australia will establish** a new National Resilience, Relief and Recovery Agency to drive the reduction of natural disaster risk, enhance natural disaster resilience and ensure effective relief and recovery to all hazards.
- While our adaptation and resilience work start at home, Australia is also committed to supporting **neighbouring** and global communities tackle climate change.
- **Australia has pledged at least Rs.150 crore** over the period 2020 to 2025 for global

climate finance; Rs.50 crore of this funding will directly help our Pacific neighbours deploy renewable energy, and improve their climate change and disaster resilience.

India's Efforts:

- Australia's and India working together with partners like to help ensure our infrastructure is resilient and adapts to the effects of a changing climate. **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure** is an example.
- India's engagement with the **International Solar Alliance** a global initiative designed to harness solar power to provide for the energy needs of members of the alliance.
- Australia is working with India on **Water Resources Management** to further enhance each country's water management capabilities and share expertise and best practice.

Focused areas of Green technologies:

1. To support resilience and adaption efforts, Australia is also investing in and developing the green technologies of tomorrow.
2. We are focussed on **accelerating technologies like** hydrogen, carbon capture use and storage, soil carbon, energy storage to backup renewables and decarbonise transport, and low or zero emissions steel and aluminium.
3. **The Australia-India Joint Energy Dialogue will strengthen** cooperation between our two countries in pumped hydro storage, cost-effective battery technologies, hydrogen and coal gasification, adoption of

clean energy technology, fly ash management technologies, and solar forecasting and scheduling.

Way forward:

- The COVID-19 pandemic, or tackling the **ongoing challenge posed** by climate change, we need to embrace innovation and **strengthen global partnerships**.
- World need to consider those most in need, engage all **stakeholders equally** and respect indigenous culture and knowledge in taking climate action.
- World are **sharing our climate adaptation** expertise, experiences and skills with the world through our development programme and the India- Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific.
- Widespread global deployment of **those technologies will** reduce emissions or eliminate them in sectors responsible for 90% of the world's emissions 4,500 crore tonnes.
- The goal is to get the cost of deploying these **new technologies** to parity with existing, higher-emitting alternatives. This is a practical pathway to achieve net zero emissions that also presents economic opportunity.
- The **most ambitious global emissions reductions**, we will still need to adapt to changes in our climate over the coming decades.
- Practical actions that help us adapt to those changes and strengthen the resilience of our local environments are critical.

Question: -

The Climate change is an increasingly pressing global issue. Describe India's Climate change resilience actions?

Decision-making of social media platforms

Why in News: - Information and Technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad accused Twitter of "double standards".

Syllabus: - GS3- Science-Tech: Awareness and Indians.

The Information and Technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad criticised Twitter with respect to the events at Capitol Hill in the US and the Red Fort in India on Republic Day.

The global Concern

- The seeming arbitrariness of decision-making of social media platforms is a global concern.
- Recently, French President Emmanuel Macron expressed his displeasure at the way social media platforms which had "helped President Trump to be so efficient" "suddenly cut the mic" the moment "they were sure he was (out of) power".

Issues with Social Media Platforms: -

- This lack of consistency and the absence of clearly defined rules on part of social media platforms is sparking anxieties and conversations around the world.
- Cyberbullying is a very real problem, and there is a need to explicitly educate players

on the dangers of both online abuse and acting appropriately online.

- The political news primarily through social media tend to be less well-informed and more likely to be exposed to unproven claims that people

Government's Stand: -

- the government raised doubts over Twitter's commitment to transparency and healthy conversation given the widespread presence of fake, unverified, anonymous and automated bot accounts.
- The MeitY expressed concerns about misuse of Twitter's platform alleging that the presence of a toolkit was proof of a "strong social media campaign".
- The microblogging website issued a statement defending its actions of restoring some of the accounts it had withheld earlier this month at the behest of the Indian government.

Way Forward: -

- The government also needs to be more transparent in its decision-making.
- When it asks a social media platform to block hundreds of accounts, that must be guided by a pre-defined and publicly disclosed set of rules.
- Failure to do so means that for all the government's talk of freedom of expression and open democratic systems, the blacklist can be used to silence critical voices.
- The absence of information only serves to strengthen mistrust.

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- In the confrontation between big tech and government, both have much to consider and many questions to answer.

Value- Addition

1. India is fifth in the world when it comes to issuing legal demands to the social media company. India along with Japan, Russia, South Korea and Turkey are responsible for 96% of the global legal requests.
2. India is expected to reach 627 million social media users by 2019. A report by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) reportedly showed that India had 451 million monthly active users as of March 31, 2019.
3. According to a report by social media management platform Hootsuite, YouTube is the most popular social media platform in India followed by Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram.
4. "Work in India. Make money but you will have to abide by Indian laws and the Constitution," IT minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad.
5. In a report by the UK-based VPN advocacy organisation Top10VPN, India ranked first in the list of countries which restricted internet services in 2020.

Question: -

“Social media platforms must be neutral, transparent and consistent in their decision-making process.” Critically Analyse.