

NEWS TODAY

TRAI RELEASES RECOMMENDATIONS ON 'INTRODUCTION OF DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDER (DCIP) AUTHORIZATION UNDER UNIFIED LICENSE (UL)'

- Earlier, **National Digital Communications Policy – 2018** and **Economic Survey 2022-23** also emphasised the need for a robust digital infrastructure.
- **Significance of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI)**
 - > **Economic development as financial services** and services like **e-governance, telemedicine, entertainment,** and online e-commerce depends on it.
 - > **Facilitating rapid adoption of frontier technologies** such as AI, Blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT) and success of Industry 4.0.
 - > **Implementing various Government schemes** under Digital India, Make in India, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), development of Smart Cities etc.
- **Key recommendations by TRAI**
 - > **Creation of a new category of license**, under UL, called **Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP)** for creation of both active (like antennas, back-haul connectivity) as well as passive (like telecom towers) DCI.
 - **UL offers service-wise authorisations**, where licensees establish networks and use them to provide services.
 - > **Increasing scope of DCIP** for establishing all Wireline Access Networks, Radio Access Networks (RAN), Wi-Fi systems, transmission links etc.
 - > **DCIP Licensees can share owned infrastructure** with other UL licensees and ISPs (except DCIPs).

CONSIDER SETTING UP ONE EXCLUSIVE SHOP FOR MILLETS IN EVERY DISTRICT: PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE (PSC) REPORT

- Report also suggested **encouraging states to distribute millets** in addition to rice / wheat **under the Targeted Public Distribution System** and other welfare schemes.
- Millets (Shree Anna) are **collective group of small-seeded annual grasses** that are **grown as grain crops**, primarily on marginal land **in dry areas of temperate, sub-tropical and tropical regions**.
 - > **India produces all the nine commonly known millets** and is the **largest producer** and **fifth-largest exporter** of millets in the world.
 - > **Pearl millet** followed by Sorghum, Finger and Small millets are the **major millets produced in India**.



- **Benefits of millets: Nutritionally superior** to wheat and rice, Have **substantially higher amounts of minerals, Ecologically sustainable** (less dependent on fertilisers, do not attract pests), **Climate-resilient** etc.
- **Initiatives taken for promotion of Millet**
 - > Millets **declared as Nutri-cereals**.
 - > UNGA declared **2023 as International Year of Millets** on India's proposal.
 - > **National Year of Millets** celebrated in 2018.
 - > Millets made **part of National Food Security Mission (NFSM)**.

CAG RELEASED AN AUDIT REPORT ON AYUSHMAN BHARAT - PM JAN AROGYA YOJANA (PMJAY)

● **PMJAY** aims at providing a **health cover of 5 lakhs per family per year** for **secondary and tertiary care hospitalization** to over **12 crore** poor and vulnerable families.

● Key findings

- **Beneficiary identification and registration:** only about **73% of targeted households** are actual beneficiaries.
 - Errors such as invalid names, duplicate IDs, etc. are noticed.
- **Hospital empanelment and management:** Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCPs) are charging for **treatments** and they **lack infrastructure** and biomedical waste management etc.
- **Claims management:** Overlap of **beneficiaries with state-sponsored schemes**, excess payments to EHCPs, inadequate validation checks, etc.,
- **Financial management:** release of **excess grants to some states**, diversion of funds, non-compliance with **monitoring the expenditure through PFMS** (Public Financial Management System), etc.
- **Grievance redressal:** non-constitution of District Implementing Units, State Grievance Redress Committee, etc. by many states.
 - **only around 10% of the complaints were redressed** within the timeframe.

● Recommendations

- Validation checks **should be in place to increase the accuracy and reliability** of the data.
- Encourage more **private hospitals to join the Scheme**.
- Effective **scrutiny of the processing and payment** of the claims.
- Ensure the formation of **District Implementing Units** in every District.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, GRIEVANCES, LAW, AND JUSTICE HAS TABLED THE REPORT ON “JUDICIAL PROCESS AND THEIR REFORMS”

● The Committee **identified issues of higher judiciary** i.e., Supreme Court (SC) and High Court (HC), and provided recommendations.

Issues	Recommendations
Diversity in the Appointment of Judges	● Collegiums must suggest sufficient women and marginalised candidates , including minorities, for appointments, which should be stated in the Memoranda of Procedure (MoP).
Feasibility of Regional Benches (RB) of SC.	● Establish RBs of SC at 4 or 5 locations . Wherein Constitutional matters may be dealt with at Delhi and the regional benches may decide appellate matters .
Retirement Age of Judges (from the Current age of 62 for HCs and 65 for SC)	● Amend respective articles to raise the retirement age. ● Create a Collegium-defined appraisal for extended tenure in the judicial system.
Assets Declaration by the Judges	● Enact law for mandatory annual submission of details of assets by HC and SC Judges to the appropriate authority .
Vacations in judiciary	● Individual judges can take leave at different times of the year so that the courts operate constantly (as mooted by RM Lodha on court vacations).
Annual Reports	● As only a few HCs release their annual report. ● SC should direct HCs to publish Annual Reports in a unified format .

FITCH DOWNGRADES US CREDIT RATING

- **US government's credit rating has been downgraded** following concerns over the **country's finances and debt burden**.
- **Credit ratings** are forward-looking opinions on relative **ability of an entity to meet its financial commitments, i.e., credit risk or relative creditworthiness** of a borrower.
 - **Sovereign Credit Ratings (SCR)** represent an **assessment of a country's** or sovereign entity's **ability to meet debt obligations**.
 - Global credit rating is **dominated by S&P, Moody's, and Fitch** rating agencies.
- **Importance of SCR:** Facilitates borrowing from global capital markets, attracts foreign investment, assesses the country's economic and political environment etc.
- **A downgrade** in the rating **indicates that the risk of default is higher** than what was earlier predicted, and it **affects investors' confidence, increases borrowing costs, causes isolation** from international capital market etc.
- **However, several nations, including India, have questioned grading by global credit rating agencies**, citing reasons like:
 - **Lack of transparency** on methodologies followed by rating agencies.
 - **Inadequately capturing the economy's fundamentals**.
 - **Biased against emerging economies**.
- **SEBI regulates domestic credit rating agencies (CRISIL, ICRA, CARE etc.)**.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY SUBMITTED A REPORT ON TIDAL POWER DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

- **Committee identified three main types of Ocean Energy i.e., Wave, Tidal, and Ocean-Thermal.**

- The total **identified potential of tidal energy** is about 12,455 MW, with **potential locations identified** at Khambhat & Kutch regions, and large backwaters, where barrage technology could be used.

- **Key Findings**

- Reassess the **tidal power potential in order to explore the implementable plan.**

- Engage in **demonstration/pilot tidal power projects** so that the feasibility of commercial generation of tidal power can be explored.

- **Tidal Energy**

- It is a form of **power produced by the natural rise and fall of tides caused by the gravitational** interaction between the Earth, the sun, and the moon.

- There are currently three different ways to get tidal energy:

- **Tidal barrages (dam-like structures), Tidal lagoons** (partly enclosed barrier), and a **Tidal stream** (fast-flowing body of water created by tides).

- **Significance:** Reduce the **dependence upon fossil fuels, energy capturing and conversion mechanisms** may help protect the shoreline.

- **Challenges:** High initial cost, require salt-resistant parts connecting them to the power grid, can be constructed only with a good tidal differential, etc.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Interpol Global Academy Network (IGAN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● CBI Academy becomes a member of IGAN.● Launched in 2019, IGAN supports academic collaboration among law enforcement training institutions across the world.● International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) is an inter-governmental organization which helps police in all member countries to work together to make world a safer place.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Members: 195 (India is a member since 1949).
 <p>Compulsory Convertible Debentures (CCD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Foreign investors from Mauritius, Cyprus and Singapore are issued notices for gains from investment in CCDs issued by Indian companies.● CCD are debentures with an underlying characteristic of compulsory conversion into equity after a certain period of time.● CCDs are a type of hybrid instrument, i.e. it is neither considered a pure debt nor pure equity.● CCDs include a convertibility feature which acts as an incentive for the investors over and above the interest income.
 <p>Software as a Service (SaaS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● As per industry projections, SaaS in India is expected to reach \$ 50 billion by 2030.● SaaS<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It is a cloud-based software delivery model in which the cloud provider develops and maintains cloud application software.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ e.g., email services, office tools like MS Office 365, cloud-based data storage like Google Drive, etc.➤ Software is made available to consumers via the Internet on a pay-as-you-go basis.➤ Benefits: reduced costs for customers, easy deployment, and scalability for businesses.
 <p>Special skill initiative for North-East Region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Recently, a special initiative of “Transforming Lives - Building Futures: Skill and Entrepreneurship Development in North-East” was launched.● It will include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Skill training under the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Jan Sikshan Sansthan (JSS)➤ Apprenticeship engagement➤ Quality Enhancement of ITIs➤ Strengthening of Polytechnics➤ Skill India International Centre to be set up to promote overseas job opportunities.



 <p>'Bhagwa' Pomegranate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● APEDA facilitated the export of the first trial shipment of 'Bhagwa' pomegranate to the USA in collaboration with NPPO. ● 'Bhagwa' (Saffron-colored)Pomegranate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High anti-oxidant content and super fruit characteristics ➤ Solapur (Maharashtra) contributes almost 50% of pomegranate export from India. ● Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is a statutory body under the APEDA Act, 1985. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is an apex-Export Trade Promotion authority 'for agro-commodities'. ● National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage is the national NPPO of India. ➤ It undertakes all phytosanitary responsibilities for the export of agro-commodities.
 <p>Mission Indradhanush (MI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As per latest data, 6 States/UTs have achieved 100% Full Immunization Coverage (FIC) whereas 17 States have achieved FIC of more than 90%. ● MI was launched in 2014 as a special drive to vaccinate all unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vaccines against 12 life-threatening diseases such as Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B etc. are provided. ● Intensified IMI 4.0 was conducted in 416 high-focus districts across India in 2022.
 <p>Maya Operating System (OS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amid increasing cyber and malware attacks on defence as well as critical infrastructure, Ministry of Defence to replace Windows OS with Maya OS. ● New OS is based on an open-source platform Ubuntu. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unlike proprietary software, everyone has the freedom to edit, modify and reuse open-source code. ● In addition, an end-point detection and protection system, Chakravyuh, is also being installed in these systems.
 <p>International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Also known as World Tribal Day, It is observed every year on August 9 to promote and protect the rights of indigenous populations around the world. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ indigenous people make up less than 5% of the global population, they are responsible for 15% of the world's poorest people. ● Date marks the day of the first meeting, in 1982, of UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.
 <p>Personalities in news</p>	<p>Sri Aurobindo Ghose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He was a 20th-century Bengali poet, philosopher, spiritual leader, and revolutionary freedom fighter. ● Political Contribution: He helped in establishing Anushilan Samiti in 1902, arrested in the Alipore Conspiracy case in 1908. ● First principal of the National College in Calcutta (1906). ● Literary Contribution: Started Bande Mataram (English Daily), Karmayogin (English newspaper), and Dharma (Bengali Weekly). ● Spiritual Contribution: Established Aurobindo Ashram in 1926 along with Mirra Alfassa. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mirra Alfassa founded Auroville- a spiritual commune/township in Tamil Nadu. ● Values: Rationalism and Determination.



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



SIKAR