



## Current Affairs of the Day

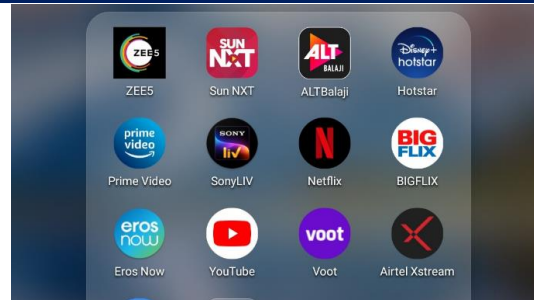
- Govt. to govern OTT platforms
- ₹1.46 lakh crore outlay over 5 years
- ‘Meghalaya govt. encouraging illegal mining’
- ‘GDP shrank 8.6% in Q2 pushing the economy into a recession’
- Social infra PPPs eligible for viability gap funding



## Govt. to govern OTT platforms

**GS II: Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation.**

In a move that will have far-reaching impact, the government brought “Over the Top” (OTT) platforms or video streaming service providers like Netflix, Amazon Prime and others under the ambit of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



### Highlights:

1. Currently, there is no law or autonomous body governing digital content. In a gazette notification issued on Wednesday and signed by the President Ram Nath Kovind, online films, digital news and current affairs content now come under the purview of the I&B Ministry.
2. This will give the government control over the OTT platforms, which were unregulated till now. From time to time, the government had indicated the necessity to monitor these platforms.
3. In October last year, the government had indicated that it would issue a “negative” list of don'ts for video streaming services like Netflix and Hotstar. It also wanted the platforms to come up with a self-regulatory body on the lines of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority.
4. Anticipating the government's intervention in January 2019, eight video streaming services had signed a self-regulatory code that laid down a set of guiding principles for the content on these platforms.
5. The code adopted by the OTTs in January last prohibited five types of content, including content which deliberately and maliciously disrespects the national emblem or flag and any visuals or storylines that promotes child pornography.

### OTT platforms:

OTT, or over-the-top platforms, are audio and video hosting and streaming services which started out as content hosting platforms, but soon branched out into the production and release of short movies, feature films, documentaries and web-series themselves.



## Regulation of OTT platforms so far

So far in India, there are no laws or rules regulating OTT platforms as it is a relatively new medium of entertainment. Unlike television, print or radio, which follow guidelines released by governments, OTT platforms, classified as digital media or social media, had little to no regulation on the choice of content they offered, the subscription rates, certification for adult movies and others.

In India, the regulation of such platforms has been widely debated and discussed. Following pressure to regulate the content being made available on these streaming platforms, the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), a representative body of the OTT platforms had proposed a self-regulatory model.

### Implications of the move:

With the government deciding to bring films and audio-visual programmes made available by online content providers” as well as “news and current affairs content on online platforms”, the first challenge before the OTT platforms would be keeping a check on their content.

The central government’s move to bring the OTT platforms under the I&B Ministry could also mean that these platforms would have to apply for certification and approval of the content they wish to stream. This in itself could give rise to many conflicts as most OTT platforms have content that could otherwise be censored by the certification boards in India.

## ₹1.46 lakh crore outlay over 5 years

### GS III: Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

The 10 sectors under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme announced by the Centre on Wednesday have been identified on the basis of their potential to create jobs, linkages with the global value chain, the sunrise sectors and make India self-reliant.

### Highlights:

1. An official statement from the Cabinet put the figure at ₹1,45,980 crore, with the largest chunk of over ₹57,000 crores allocated for automobiles and auto components production.



2. A window has also been kept open for new sectors to be included in the PLI scheme after acquiring a fresh approval from the Cabinet.
3. The scheme aims to make Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attract investment in the areas of core competency and cutting-edge technology; ensure efficiencies; create economies of scale; enhance exports and make India an integral part of the global supply chain.
4. Industry chambers welcomed the move and called for similar ideas to help more sectors. The sectors covered under the PLI scheme are strategic, technology-intensive and also important from the perspective of employment generation.

### Mains:

1. PLI scheme has the potential to make India an integral part of the Network product value chain. Discuss.

### Learn Through Graphics:

1/2

## Cabinet approves PLI Scheme in 10 key Sectors

Sectors	Implementing Ministry/Department	Approved financial outlay over a five-year period Rs.crore
Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery	NITI Aayog and Department of Heavy Industries	18100
Electronic/Technology Products	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	5000
Automobiles & Auto Components	Department of Heavy Industries	57042
Pharmaceuticals drugs	Department of Pharmaceuticals	15000
Telecom & Networking Products	Department of Telecom	12195



## Cabinet approves PLI Scheme in 10 key Sectors

Sectors	Implementing Ministry/Department	Approved financial outlay over a five-year period Rs.crore
Textile Products: MMF segment and technical textiles	Ministry of Textiles	10683
Food Products	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	10900
High Efficiency Solar PV Modules	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	4500
White Goods (ACs & LED)	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade	6238
Speciality Steel	Ministry of Steel	6322
<b>Total</b>		<b>145980</b>

### ‘Meghalaya govt. encouraging illegal mining’

#### GS III: Environmental Pollution and Degradation

A Meghalaya-based rights group has accused the alliance government in the State of encouraging illegal coal mining and transportation of coal in contempt of a Supreme Court order. The government insisted several stringent measures have been taken, including cases registered against some 2,000 people for flouting the ban.



## NGT ban

1. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had in April 2014 imposed the ban on rat-hole coal mining in Meghalaya. The State government later claimed tonnes of already extracted coal lying around various mining sites needed to be transported to prevent the local environment from being polluted.
2. Coal miners had in December 2018 told the Supreme Court, which had upheld the NGT ban, 1.77 lakh metric tonnes of extracted coal was left to be transported.
3. The Chief Minister, however, admitted that the government has been facing the challenges of illegal coal mining and transportation.
4. The state government has taken steps such as issuing high-security challans with special ink and hologram, forming a task force and joint patrolling of police and mining officials at different locations in the State.

## Prelims:

1. Mining in 7th schedule, major minerals (union list), minor minerals (state list), the safety of mining labour (Union list)

## Mains:

1. Discuss socioeconomic and political negative impacts of illegal rat-hole mining in Meghalaya.

## **‘GDP shrank 8.6% in Q2 pushing the economy into a recession’**

### **GS III: Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.**

India's economy rebounded sharply in the wake of the reopening from lockdowns, slowing the pace of its contraction to 8.6% in the second quarter, the RBI's monthly bulletin showed on Wednesday.

## Highlights:

1. The estimate implies that India is likely to have entered a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history with two successive quarters of GDP contraction, wrote an RBI official who authored an article in the bulletin.

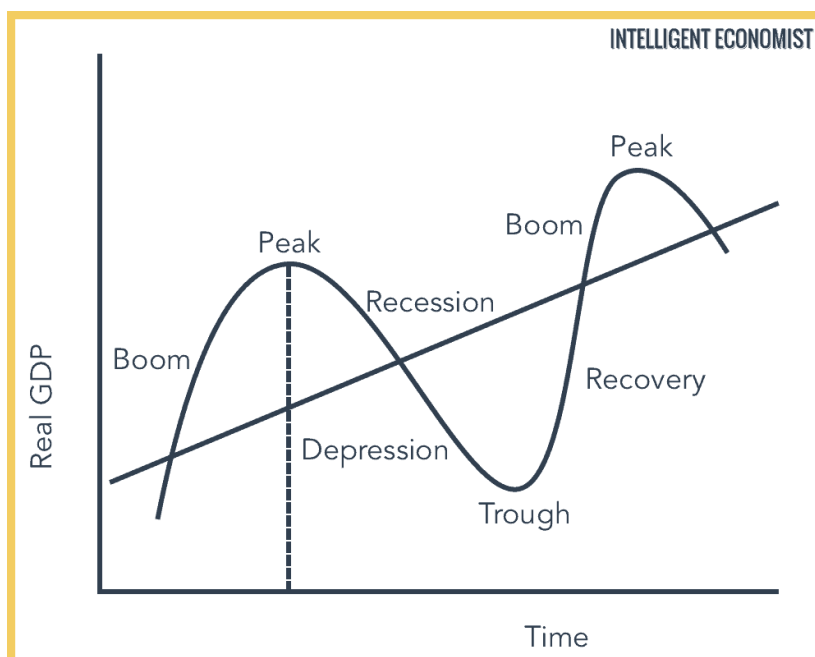


2. An Economic Activity Index, which tracks real-time data from 27 monthly indicators, showed the economy had rebounded sharply from May/June, with industry normalising faster than contact-intensive service sectors, pointing to a short-lived contraction.
3. At a time when global economic activity is besieged by the outbreak of the second wave of COVID-19, data for the month of October 2020 have brightened the near-term outlook for the Indian economy and stirred up consumer and business confidence.
4. Observing that “the unrelenting pressure of inflation” was the foremost risk, the RBI warned that a hit to external demand from the second wave and financially stressed households and companies could also undermine the recovery.

### Mains:

1. What is a recession?
2. Counter cyclical policy
3. Business Cycle

### Learn Through Graphics: Understand the Business cycle and relevant fiscal and monetary policies to intervene





## Social infra PPPs eligible for viability gap funding

### GS II: Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

The government on Wednesday expanded the provision of financial support by means of viability gap funding for public-private partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure projects to include critical social sector investments in sectors such as health, education, water and waste treatment.

#### Highlights:

1. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the continuation of the scheme for financial support to PPPs in infrastructure that has been in place since 2006, till 2024-25, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, stressing that the scheme had been revamped.
2. Now, under two new schemes, private sector projects in areas like wastewater treatment, solid waste management, health, water supply and education, could get 30% of the total project cost from the Centre and States could chip in with another 30%.

#### Mains:

1. The social infrastructure in India is in urgent need of innovation in terms of financing and execution. Elaborate.