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# CURRENT AFFAIRS



## Registration of Unorganised Workers Context

### Context

The Supreme Court of India (SC) has directed the Central Government and the State Governments to complete the registration process of unorganized workers so that they can avail the welfare benefits given under various government schemes.

Important Points

### SC's Observations:

#### Record of Migrant Workers:

- SC asked states and Union territories to keep a record of the returning migrant labourers, including details about their skills, place of their earlier employment, etc so that the administration can extend necessary help to them.

#### Common National Database:

- There should be a common national database for all organised workers situated in different states.
- The process initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Employment for creating a National Database for Unorganised Workers should be completed with collaboration and coordination of the States.
- It may serve registration for extending different schemes by the States and Center.

## **Mechanism for Supervision:**

- There should be a suitable mechanism to monitor and supervise whether the benefits of the welfare schemes reach the beneficiaries which may be from grassroot levels to higher authorities with names and places of beneficiaries.

## **Dry Ration to Stranded Workers:**

- The stranded migrant workers throughout the country should be provided dry ration under the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Scheme or any other scheme found suitable by the Centre and the states.

## **Government Initiatives for Migrant Worker:**

- Interoperability of Ration Card: Under the One Nation-One Ration Card (ONORC), the beneficiaries from one state can get their share of rations in other states where the ration card was originally issued.
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY): PMGKAY is a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to help the poor fight the battle against Covid-19.
- Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan (GKRA): The scheme provides livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers and rural citizens who have returned to their home states due to the Covid-19 induced lockdown.
- ASEEM Portal: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched 'Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)' portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- Database of labour migrants in Indian states and overseas citizens, who returned to India under the Vande Bharat Mission and filled SWADES Skill Card, has been integrated with the ASEEM portal.
- National Migrant Information System (NMIS): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has developed an online dashboard called 'NMIS'.
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# WhatsApp moves Delhi High Court against India's new IT Rules

## Context:

Recently, messaging platform WhatsApp has moved the Delhi High Court to challenge the traceability provision in the New IT Rules 2021.

Earlier the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) had sent a notice to WhatsApp asking it to withdraw a controversial update to its privacy policy which might be a threat to Data Protection of Indians.

## Issue:

- Traceability Provision:
- It requires intermediaries to enable identification of the first originator of information on their platforms.
- Rule 4(2) of the Intermediary Rules states that a significant social media intermediary providing services primarily in the nature of messaging shall enable the identification of the first originator of the information on its computer resource as may be required by a judicial order or an order passed by a competent authority under the Information and Technology (IT) Act 2000.
- Failure to comply with this requirement would take away the indemnity provided to social media intermediaries under Section 79 of the IT Act.

## Concerns Raised:

### Infringes Rights to privacy and freedom of speech:

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- This breaks end-to-end encryption and impermissibly infringes upon users' fundamental Rights to privacy and Freedom of speech.
- Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees the freedom of speech and expression.

- The right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution (Puttaswamy Judgement 2017).
- Discourages Free Expression:
- Freedom of Speech and Right to Privacy encourages users to express their ideas and opinions, report unlawful activities, and challenge popular views without fear of reprisal,
- whereas enabling the identification of the first originator of information in India subverts privacy and discourages free expression of views.
- Will Curb Freedom of Media:
- It would put journalists at risk of retaliation for investigating issues that may be unpopular, civil or for discussing certain rights and criticizing or advocating for politicians or policies.
- Clients and attorneys who could become reluctant to share confidential information for fear that the privacy and security of their communications are no longer ensured.
- Traceability not Effective in Finding Originator:
- Traceability would not be effective in finding the originator of a particular message because people commonly see content on websites or social media platforms and then copy and paste them into chats.
- It would also be impossible to understand the context of how it was originally shared.

## **Conclusion:**

Thus, balancing state and individual security along with privacy of citizen need streamline with early enactment of data protection law in India