

# WRITE TO INFORMATION

## TECHNOLOGY MEDIA AND TELECOMMUNICATION, MARCH 2024

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## A. TECHNOLOGY

### CCI denies interim order restricting Google from charging its service fee.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) had earlier ordered a probe into Google's Play Store billing policy for imposing an 'unfair service fee' on app developers in a complaint filed by various startups such as People Interactive India Private Limited, representing brands like Shaadi.com and Sangam.com. The CCI scrutinised Google's practice of imposing an 'unfair service fee' on app developers, noting that such fees hampered developers' ability to allocate resources towards enhancing or expanding their app offerings, consequently impeding the app market's growth. The app developers prayed for the grant of interim relief to suspend Google's service fees, which was dismissed by CCI, underscoring its ongoing examination of Google's practices and highlighting the Applicants' failure to satisfy the requisite criteria for interim relief. [READMORE:](#)



### IRDAI gives approval to set up an insurance e-marketplace.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved the creation of an ONDC-like electronic marketplace – Bima Sugam. This digital platform will function as an online insurance marketplace, facilitating the purchase, sale, and servicing of insurance policies and the settlement of claims. In a press release titled "Regulatory Revamp: A Paradigm Shift," issued on March 22, 2024, the regulator announced the introduction of the IRDAI (Bima Sugam - Insurance Electronic Marketplace) Regulations, 2024. The primary objective of these regulations is to establish a Digital Public Infrastructure with the aim of universalising and democratizing insurance access while also empowering and safeguarding the interests of policyholders. [READMORE:](#)



### Govt cautions influencers against promoting offshore betting platforms.

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued a cautionary advisory to social media influencers regarding the endorsement of offshore online betting and gambling platforms. The ministry warned that non-compliance with the advisory could result in the removal of social media posts and accounts. Additionally, online advertisement intermediaries have been instructed not to target such promotional content toward Indian audiences. [READMORE:](#)



### AI advisory: Govt removes the requirement to take its permission for untested models.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has revised its AI advisory, eliminating the provision that previously required intermediaries and platforms to obtain government permission before deploying "under-tested" or "unreliable" AI models and tools in the country. Instead, platforms are now advised to label their AI models and software as "under testing" before making them available to the public. Additionally, they are instructed to implement a user consent mechanism to inform users about the potential erroneous outcomes that generative AI models may produce. [READMORE:](#)



### MCA and Meta partner to unveil WhatsApp tipline to curb deepfakes.

In collaboration with Meta, the Misinformation Combat Alliance (MCA) has established a Deepfakes Analysis Unit (DAU) to address the proliferation of fake information generated by Deepfake technology. Beginning March 25, the MCA will proactively identify and respond to AI-generated synthetic media. Through this platform, members of the public can submit audio notes and videos to +91 9999025044 on WhatsApp for assessment of their authenticity, particularly in cases involving AI manipulation. [READMORE:](#)

## EU Parliament gives final nod to landmark AI law.

European Union lawmakers granted final approval to the artificial intelligence law of the 27-nation bloc, paving the way for the implementation of world-leading regulations later this year. Similar to many EU regulations, the AI Act was originally designed as consumer safety legislation, adopting a "risk-based approach" to products or services utilising artificial intelligence.

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## ELON MUSK SUES OPENAI & CEO SAM ALTMAN FOR ALLEGED BREACH OF CONTRACT



### The dispute between OpenAI and Elon Musk over breach of contract claims.

Elon Musk has filed a lawsuit accusing OpenAI and its CEO of betraying its foundational mission by putting the pursuit of profit ahead of the benefit of humanity. The lawsuit asserts that OpenAI's current focus on developing artificial general intelligence (AGI), a theoretical type of AI capable of performing tasks at or beyond human intelligence levels, poses a significant risk to humanity. [READMORE:](#)

## B. MEDIA



### Kerala launches the country's first government-backed OTT platform 'Cspace'.

Kerala has launched the country's first government-backed OTT platform 'Cspace'. It is anticipated that the platform will not harm the interests of the film industry as it will only stream films that have already been released in theatres. Forty-two films have been selected in the first phase for streaming on CSpace, including thirty-five feature films, six documentaries and one short film. [READMORE:](#)



### Centre notifies Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024.

The Centre notified the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024, replacing the 1983 version in a bid to improve the film certification process. The rules were notified following the Parliament's nod to the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act last year. In an official press release, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting said that the move would "empower" the Indian film industry by inducing transparency, ease of doing business, protection from piracy among other issues. The Rules introduce new categories for age groups by further sub-dividing the existing UA category into three age-based categories: seven years (UA 7+), thirteen years (UA 13+), and sixteen years (UA 16+), instead of twelve years. [READMORE:](#)



### Supreme Court stays Centre's notification on Fact-Check Unit.

The Supreme Court stayed the Union's notification of the Fact-Check Unit (FCU) under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules 2023 (IT Amendment Rules 2023). The stay shall operate till the Bombay High Court finally decides the challenges to the IT Amendment Rules 2023. The FCU has been a contentious issue with concerns about the government's fairness in acting as an arbiter in matters where it may have a conflict of interest. [READMORE:](#)



## The regulatory body in France imposes a €250 million fine on Google for violating an intellectual property agreement.

France's competition watchdog has fined Alphabet's Google C250 million (\$271.73 million) for breaches linked to EU intellectual property rules in its relationship with media publishers, citing concerns about the company's AI service. The watchdog said Google's AI-powered chatbot Bard - since rebranded under the name Gemini - was trained on content from publishers and news agencies without notifying them. Google has pledged not to contest the facts as part of settlement proceedings. [READMORE:](#)

## C. TELECOMMUNICATIONS



### TRAI amends new MNP regulations to curb fraudulent SIM swap activities.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently notified Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2024, bringing changes to its mobile number portability (MNP) rules. These amendment regulations are aimed at curbing the practice of porting of mobile numbers by way of fraudulent SIM swap or replacement by unscrupulous elements. Under the new rules, users who had to get a new SIM card owing to theft or damage and purchase a new SIM card cannot port to a new SIM card in the next 7 days. [READMORE:](#)



### TRAI releases recommendation on 'Usage of Embedded SIM for Machine-to-Machine Communications.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has on Tuesday released recommendations on 'Usage of Embedded SIM for Machine-to-Machine (M2M) Communications'. By definition, M2M eSIM is designed for IoT sensors, meters, trackers, and devices that often operate with minimal onsite human interaction. [READMORE:](#)



### Centre plans to geotag Telecom infrastructure.

The government is planning to geo-tag key telecom infrastructure, including telecom towers and optical fibre cables, to facilitate coordination, particularly in disaster situations. The mapping of telecom infrastructure will also facilitate setting up of other developmental projects across the country. the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will coordinate with other ministries and state governments so that data can be shared in facilitating setting up of other projects, which require telecom infrastructure as the backbone. [READMORE:](#)



### Delay in defining critical services for M2M communications.

The process of defining critical services for machine-to-machine (M2M) communications is expected to face additional delays as the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has requested further input from the telecom regulator on the identification of critical services and their corresponding regulatory needs. Despite the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) submitting recommendations on M2M communications in 2017, urging the DoT to delineate critical services to be exclusively offered by licensed spectrum-based connectivity providers or telcos, the process has encountered setbacks. [READMORE:](#)