

EU Digital Services Act (DSA)

Why in News?

The European Union (EU) has given **final approval** to online **safety-focused legislation** called the **Digital Services Act (DSA)**.

About DSA:

- The law will regulate the **functioning** of the intermediaries, in terms of moderating user content. Platforms such as **Google, Meta, Twitter, and YouTube** will come under the purview.
- **Features:**
 - **Faster removals and provisions to challenge:** Social media companies will have to add new **procedures** for **faster removal** of content considered **harmful**.
 - **Take-down policy** has to be conveyed to the **users** and they will have to be given opportunity to **challenge takedown decisions** taken by platforms.
 - **Greater responsibility for larger platforms:** Increased accountability will apply on the **Big Tech companies**. It avoids a **one-size fits all approach**.
 - **Supervision:** The European Commission will **directly supervise** the requirements and the **enforcement** of the law.
 - **Transparency in working:** The Big Techs will face **scrutiny** in terms of working of their **algorithms**. Regulators will have to be given **access to their data** to identify **risks of illegal or harmful content**.
 - **Ad policies:** Online platforms must allow users to easily identify **advertisements** and understand who **presents or pays** for the advertisement.
 - Personalized **advertisement** must not be used towards **minors** or based on **sensitive personal data**.
- **Significance of the law:**
 - The law will provide **better protection** to users and to **fundamental rights** online.
 - It will establish a **powerful transparency** and **accountability** framework for online platforms.
 - The law will provide a **single, uniform framework** across the **EU**.

India's online laws:

- India has made changes to **social media regulations** in the form of the **Information Technology Rules, 2021 (IT Rules)**.
- This includes appointing key personnel to handle **law enforcement** requests and user **grievances**, enabling **identification** of the **first originator** of the information on their platform, and employing **technology-based measures** to identify **certain types of content**.
- The government has also created a **grievance appellate committees** to review and revoke **content moderation** decisions taken by platforms.