

26/9/22
CS-2

The Gov. needs to upgrade its thinking on privacy before seeking to control digital applications? Do you agree. Comment.

The draft telecommunications bill is being prepared which aims a slew of reforms in the telecom industry. Government needs to strike a balance between privacy and regulating digital applications.

Privacy vs regulation

The act consolidates three acts - Indian telegraph act, wireless telegraphy act, The Telegraph wires act. The act aims to regulate the over the top services such as WhatsApp, Netflix etc. The service providers are covered under the regulatory regime similar to telecom operators.

The Government can prevent the transmission of messages on occurrence of public emergency or safety. The bill also aims to trace

the persons who avail the services.

This has been contentious, though in a way, it is welcome as cyber security threats ~~const~~ costs ₹1.25 lakh crore to the nation.

It will help reduce cyber bullying and stalking and crimes against women and children.

On the flip side, it may lead to a state surveillance as more than 750 million use mobile phones. Right to privacy is seen as an essential part of right to life in the

Puttaswamy judgement.

Before this law kicks in it is easier to legislate personal data protection bill with suitable dispute resolution body.

Future Though the Draft bill has many positives to reduce debt burden of discoms, less regulation by TRAI, the precedence can be given to privacy along with controlling digital applications.