

UPSC

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.
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इस हाशिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।
Only write question number in this margin

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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1. Critically analyse the draft of Indian telecommunication bill 2022 released by government of India.

Department of Telecommunication recently replaced Indian telegraph Act of 1885 with Draft Indian telecommunication bill, 2022. Though telecom has evolved in last decade, bill lacks future vision.

Some positive sides of bill :

1. The changes brought are not restorative in nature
2. Verifiable Identification of callers to limit unsolicited commercial calls.
3. Utilisation of Spectrum for Commercial mobile purposes, way for spectrum trading, utilising, re-purposing
4. Allocation of spectrum ~~to~~ by other than auctions. provide Government opportunities for other ^{do} methodologies to allocate in specific use case
5. Recognition of telecom infra. providers ROW ^{approval} ~~appeals~~ for passive infrastructure

Coverts in the bill:

1. Redefinition of telecommunication services

Included all digital service providers like OTT and broadcasting services within the ambit.

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Issue 1: Regulating OTT on par with MNO [Mobile network operators]

Issue 2: OTT - ↓ clarity whether supplement / complement services
eg: SMS, telephony.

Issue 3: MNO - exclusive access to USOF, Spectrum, Roaming.
OTT - no exclusive access.

But OTT - Monopoly due to capturing of personal information.

Area of Regulation for OTT - Data privacy, must be different from MNO's.

2. TRAI's role - NO major change except additional power to check predatory pricing → Antitrust Action already under CEI's ambit

3. Government's power to involve in all telecom activities in case of national security without any regulating mechanism.

4. Need to provide mechanism to prevent any misuse.

4. Sanction of penalty for deviating service providers in Rules &

5. Morphing telecommunication with digitalization.
~~was~~ NO mechanism is provided to address the change way forward

Need to expand the bill towards digital telecommunication aspects and enhance TRAI's role for coordination with CEI, CPA and DPA