

# UPSC

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

Only write question number in this margin

1. The Government needs to upgrade its thinking on privacy before seeking to control digital applications. Do you agree with this view? Comment.

Draft Telecommunication bill was recently framed and placed in public domain.

## About the bill

1. The bill looks to bring in all the digital applications & OTT services within telecommunication services.

2. Service providers are provided License to provide the services.

3. The Definition has been widened to include all broadcasting communications from Internet communications to OTT platforms. (4) Government may notify later to include.

## Need for bill

1. Regulatory change in the Industry to promote innovation

2. Replace old laws eg' Indian Telegraph Act, 1875, with New legislative framework for 21st century

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## Concerns

1. 21<sup>st</sup> century has not only <sup>seen technological</sup> ~~increased~~ development but also people's awareness

eg: Rights, privacy and transparency.  $\Rightarrow$  SC has Verdict  
Right to privacy as Fundamental right.

But the bill provides for Government to block transfer  
of message in case of public emergency ~~in case of~~ <sup>to restore</sup>  
Public order

2. Service provider has to ~~provide~~ <sup>know to</sup> whom they  
provide services. Similar provisions already in IT Act  
to find out 1<sup>st</sup> originator. It comes out with  
encryption problem, making information vulnerable

3. Government's repeated tapping of information  
without Data protection Law for people to safeguard  
their privacy

Hence, the draft of telecommunication bill  
must be reformed to include the concerns of  
people and issue of privacy, to achieve its  
stated objectives.