

UPSC MAINS ANSWER WRITING.

Q. Do you think that the Centre should accept Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's proposals for promoting broadband connectivity? Explain.

Ans. For improving our broadband services we need to change our every required service with high speed connectivity, so that government should accept the proposal.

Important points regarding broadband connectivity is as follows:-

- (i) Access to secure, reliable, and affordable high-speed broadband services is a clear and urgent priority for every citizens.
- (ii) Broadband services will only increase if we move into a digital world where products, services, governance, financial transactions, education and entertainment etc.
- (iii) While broadband penetration in India has improved drastically over the last five years to cover 60% of the population.
- (iv) TRAI has proposed that operators rolling out fixed-line broadband networks should be given licence fee exemptions.

(v) The regulator has suggested a pilot scheme to reimburse 50% of the monthly fixed-line broadband subscription charges, subject to not more than ₹ 200 per month.

(vi) TRAI has proposed a web-based national portal with clear roles defined for the central, state and local body authorities.

(vii) The centre should accept this proposal to achieve the target of enabling fixed-line broadband access to 50% of households as set out in the National Digital Communications Policy 2018.

(viii) The regulator could have pitched for at least 5 Mbps speeds given that the centre has set a target of providing universal broadband connectivity at 5 Mbps to every citizen.

Therefore, if centre really wants its reality then government should accept the TRAI recommendations.