

122 Critically analyse the Draft Telecommunications bill released
5-2 by GoI.

The government issued the Draft telecommunications bill replacing the colonial Indian telegraphs act of 1885. The bill has been drafted at the backdrop of growing tech such as 5G.

Features of the bill

The bill has many progressive features such

as
1. Spectrum owned by a defaulting entity will be reverted to the centre and will be controlled by it.

2. The verification id of the calling party to be displayed to the receiver to prevent bogus calls as the financial frauds are on the rise.

3. Optimal utilisation of radio spectrum for commercial mobile services

4. Opening the option for allocation to radio spectrum other than auction.

This can improve last mile connectivity and take up technologies such as white-fr

Yet these are issues with the bill.

① The OTT will be regulated under the telecom service providers route and licenses would be given. The mobile network operators are given access to wide-range of radio spectrum and exclusive right of use, whether the OTTs will be given same access needs to be answered.

② The USOF - universal service obligation fund is replaced by TDF - telecommunication development fund. The USOF served connecting villages and called Bharat Net while TDF focuses on urban areas.

③ DoT reduced to an advisory body and DoT/telecommunications need not accept its recommendations.

The bill's scope must include newly emerging trends and also accommodate effective service delivery to the public at large.