

DAILY PT POINTERS

19th December, 2023



The Hindu: GS2-Polity and Governance (Page 1)

Omnibus Telecom Bill in Lok Sabha, legislation to streamline regulation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Telecommunications Bill, 2023, introduced in the Lok Sabha on Monday, proposes the first comprehensive rewrite of telecommunications law in 138 years, consolidating spectrum rules, right of way, dispute resolution between service providers and the Department of Telecommunications or local governments, and other



The Bill will replace Telegraph Act, 1885. ISTOCKPHOTO

aspects of telecom regulation into one fresh statute. The Bill will replace the Telegraph Act, 1885.

Previous changes have

been enabled by other laws and incremental amendments to the Act.

Instead of licensing, the Bill refers only to "authorisations" that will have to be obtained by telecom operators and other providers of telecom services, which have been defined as "transmission ... of any messages, by wire, radio, optical or other electromagnetic systems, whether or not ... subjected to rearrangement, computa-

tion or other processes". This wide definition could potentially include within its ambit a range of Internet-based communications services.

The law folds in many of the amendments and structures that telecom regulation and administration have accumulated in the decades since the Telegraph Act was passed.

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- Telecommunications Bill, 2023 allows the government to take over, manage or suspend any or all telecommunication services or networks in the interest of national security.
- Centre may by rules, provide for measures to protect and ensure the cyber security of telecommunication networks and telecommunication services, and the measures may include collection, analysis and dissemination of traffic data that is generated, transmitted, received or stored in telecommunication networks
- On the appointment of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Chairman and Members, the Bill said they are to be appointed from the private sector.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS3-Economy (Page 13)



Understanding value investing: how it works and brings in profits

Value investing is based on the premise that the price of an asset can vary widely from its intrinsic value, which is the discounted value of the likely future cash flow from the asset. Benjamin Graham is considered to be the father of this style of investing.

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The Hindu : GS3-S&T/Environment (Page 16)

India's first winter Arctic expedition begins; Raman Research Institute team to hold study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Raman Research Institute (RRI) here is participating in the first winter Indian expedition to the Arctic region.

The institute said on Monday, the day when Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijju flagged off the expedition, that its researchers would examine the characterisation of the radio frequency environment in the Svalbard region of the Arctic in Norway. The survey will help astronomers assess the suitability of this uniquely located region for carrying out precision astronomy measurements.

India has been running



Union Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijju (second from left) with the team from the Raman Research Institute. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

scientists will embark on the journey on Tuesday to India's research station in Alesund town on the Brogger peninsula, where research institutes from 10 countries have laboratories.

Girish B.S., from the Electronics Engineering Group at the RRI, has been designated as the team leader for this batch.

The institute said the survey of the radio frequency environment had

The month-long scientific expedition is being funded by the Earth Sciences Ministry. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Goa, is the nodal agency spearheading the expedition, which will go on till January 15.

For nearly a decade now, engineers and scientists at the RRI have been working on the development of the shaped antenna measurement of the background radio spectrum (SARAS) series of experiments. SARAS aims to study the faint cosmological signal from hydrogen, commonly referred to as the 21-cm signal, emerging from the cosmic dawn and the epoch of reionization.

Cosmic dawn denotes

stages of evolution several billions of years ago. These periods in cosmic history are not well understood due to a lack of observations.

"Due to rampant urbanisation in recent years, the space for the deployment of scientific experiments for cosmological studies is fast shrinking. Several places where low-frequency astronomical observations were conducted in the past, are no longer suitable for carrying out precision measurements. And the biggest limitation in achieving the required sensitivity is RFI," Mr. Girish said.

Sensitive electronic instruments will be used to study the incoming radio

- The Arctic is a region of extremes: extreme cold, extreme seasonal changes in daylight, and extreme winds.
- The Arctic region covers much of Earth's northern pole.
- The outer edge of the Arctic is made up of glaciers and tundra (treeless plains with frozen ground called permafrost).
- The central part of the Arctic (around the North Pole) is surrounded with large areas of sea ice.
- The Arctic environment is unique in many ways and offers the opportunity for a great many discoveries about how the physical and biologic environments function under the "extreme" conditions found in the Arctic

Do you know?

- Researchers would examine the characterisation of the radio frequency environment in the Svalbard region of the Arctic in Norway..
- India has been running its own research station, Himadri, in Svalbard since 2008..

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : GS2-Health (Page 16)

Ministry issues advisory to States in view of detection of the new JN.1 variant in India



- A new coronavirus variant named JN.1 has been detected, causing concerns among doctors, experts authorities, and the public alike.
- The Covid-19 subvariant JN.1 is a descendant of BA.2.86.
 - The JN.1 Covid subvariant was first detected in Luxembourg and is a descendant of the Pirola variant (BA.2.86), which itself stems from the Omicron sub-variant.
 - The new Covid variant contains a significant number of unique mutations, particularly in the spike protein, that may contribute to increased infectivity and immune evasion.
- central government has issued an advisory to the state governments urging them to make adequate health arrangements.

Indian Express: GS3-Environment (Page 7)

Centre launches forest certification scheme to counter foreign agencies

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 18

AMID RISING international concerns on deforestation and illicit trade in timber, the government has launched its own "national" forest certification scheme to validate entities that adhere to sustainable practices in management of forests and its products.

The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS) will offer an alternative to the private foreign certification agencies that have been operating in the Indian market for the last two decades.

A report in *The Indian Express*, as part of a global investigation into deforestation and greenwashing by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), in March this year, had revealed that there were serious questions over the integrity of these certifications, which affected acceptance of Indian products in international markets and resulted in high dropout rates among certified en-

terprises. The new standards for forest management that will be mandatory for all forest divisions in the country.

"Forests in India are managed according to their respective working plans. These working plans have now been updated with the newly-developed Indian Forest Management Standards that contains eight criteria, 69 indicators and 254 verifiers. These standards will be mandatory for all forest divisions in the country to implement," Professor Manmohan Yadav of the Bhopal-based Indian Institute of Forest Management, who was involved in the development of the standards, said.

"Getting the certification, however, is not mandatory for the forest divisions, even though they would become eligible if they adhere to these standards. Obtaining the certification would depend on needs," he said. "But this government-backed certification scheme is a very welcome step. It will bring greater trust and transparency into the processes, and grant greater

ent entity like the Bureau of Indian Standards or Quality Council of India," Yadav said.

IFWCS would offer certification for sustainable forest management, sustainable management of trees outside forests like those in plantations, and chain of custody which is a sort of guarantee of the traceability of a forest product throughout its supply chain, from the origins to the market. "Certification may be of use to forest management units, corporations, or wood-based industries, tree growers, timber or NTFP (Non Timber Forest Produce) traders, saw millers, exporters or importers of wood-based and NTFP-based products, and other end-user industries," the guidelines on the scheme said.

Europe and the United States happen to be the largest export markets for India's forest-based products, particularly handicraft and furniture. These markets have been tightening the rules for import of forest products because of greater sensitivity around defor-

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme.
- This national forest certification scheme offers voluntary third-party certification designed to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country.
- The scheme includes forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification.
- The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme can provide market incentives to various entities that adhere to responsible forest management and agroforestry practices in their operations.
- This includes state forest departments, individual farmers, or Farmer Producer Organizations engaged in agroforestry and farm forestry, as well as other wood-based industries in the value chain.
- The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme, will be overseen by the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council, which will act as a multistakeholder advisory body.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express: GS2-Education (Page7)

6 states, UTs yet to sign MoU for PM-SHRI schools; Punjab proposes withdrawal

New Delhi: Six states and Union Territories have not signed an MoU with the Centre for the PM-SHRI school scheme, while one state has proposed to withdraw from the MoU originally signed, the Lok Sabha was informed on Monday.

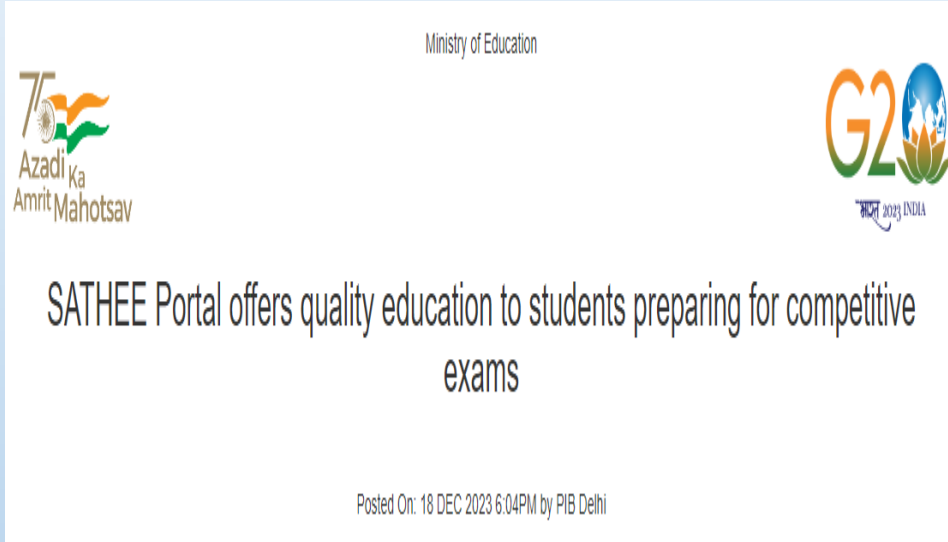
So far, 29 states and UTs along with the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti have signed the MoU. Bihar, Delhi, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have not signed the MoU while Punjab has proposed to withdraw.

Union Minister of Education for State Annapurna Devi shared the information in a written response to queries from BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal on the number of applications received from various states for the upgrade of schools and if some state governments had not signed the MoU with the Union government for the scheme's implementation.

- PM SHRI School is a centrally sponsored scheme by the Government of India.
- This initiative is intended to develop more than 14500 PM SHRI Schools managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/local bodies including KVS and NVS in which every student feels welcomed and cared for, where a safe and stimulating learning environment exists, where a wide range of learning experiences are offered, and where good physical infrastructure and appropriate resources conducive to learning are available to all students
- The Scheme is proposed to be implemented over a period of 5 years w.e.f. 2022-23 to 2026-27.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

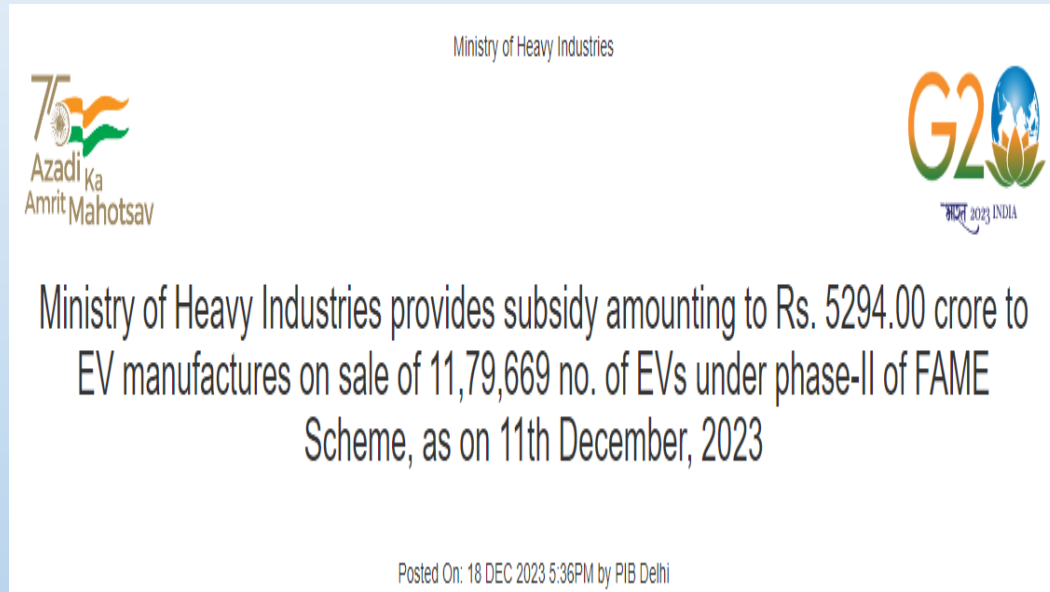
PIB: GSII-Governance



- The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education in collaboration with IIT Kanpur has started **SATHEE (Self-Assessment, Test and Help for Entrance Examination)** portal to provide quality education to every student who intend to participate in competitive Education such as JEE, NEET and various State level Engineering and other Examinations.
- Ministry of Education has written to all State/UTs to inform educators and students about this facility which can be used for competitive examinations preparation and for knowledge enhancement.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: GSIII-Environment



- The Ministry of Heavy Industries formulated Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II) Scheme for a period of five years commencing from 1st April,2019 with a total budgetary support of Rs. 10,000 crore.
- This phase mainly focuses on supporting electrification of public & shared transportation, and aims to support through demand incentive 7090 e-buses, 5 lakh e-3 Wheelers, 55000 e-4 Wheeler Passenger Cars and 10 lakh e-2 Wheelers. In addition, creation of charging infrastructure is also supported under the Scheme.

Do you know ?

- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-India) Scheme is launched under National Mission on Electric Mobility in 2011/ National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020, unveiled in 2013.
- The scheme aims to encourage progressive induction of reliable, affordable and efficient electric and hybrid vehicles (xEV).

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: GSIII-S&T



- Ministry of Mines is to launch the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) Portal on 19th December 2023 in a ceremony in New Delhi.
- NGDR is a comprehensive online platform for accessing, sharing, and analyzing geospatial information across the nation.
- The NGDR initiative, spearheaded by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Bhaskarachaya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N).

Do you know ?

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
- Over the years, GSI has not only grown into a repository of geo-science information required in various fields in the country but has also attained the status of a geo-scientific organisation of international repute.
- Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics [BISAG (N)] is an Autonomous Scientific Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the MeitY