Daily Current Affairs
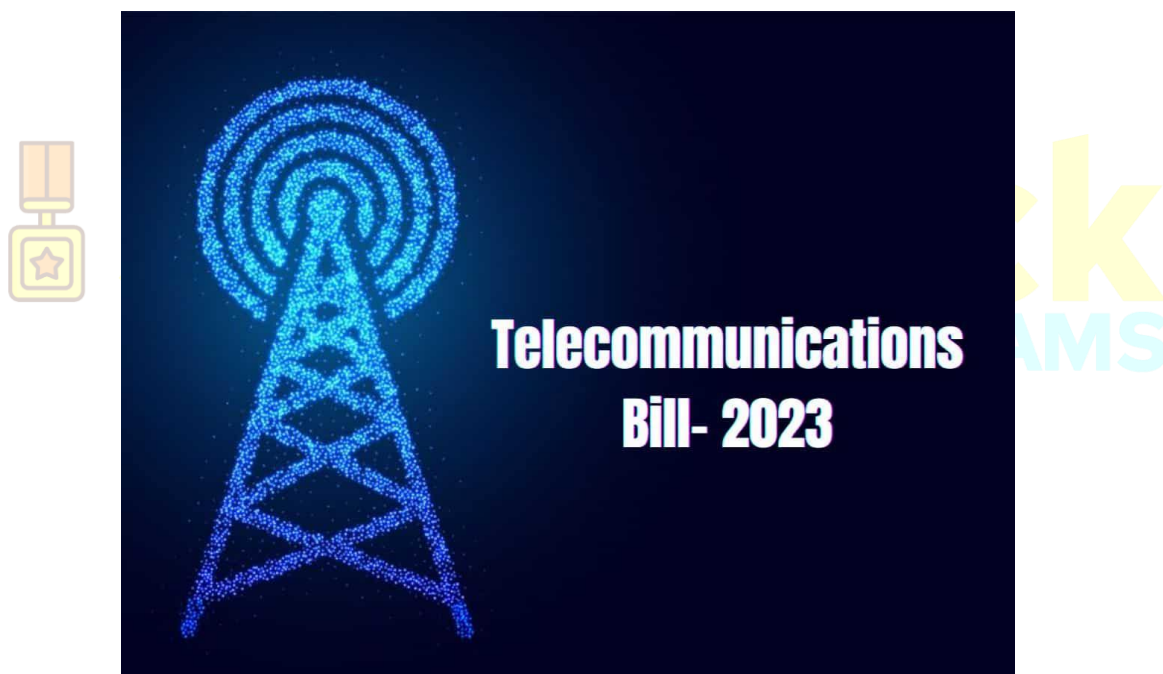# 23 December 2023

Telecom Bill 2023 Approved By Parliament

- The Lok Sabha recently approved the **Telecommunications Bill, 2023**, a significant piece of legislation that **empowers the government** to temporarily take control of telecom services in the interest of national security.
- **The allocation of satellite spectrum** and grants the government authority to assume possession of a telecom network during public emergencies or in the interest of public safety.
- "On the **occurrence of any public emergency**, including disaster management, or in the interest of public safety, the **central government** or a state government, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient, can temporarily take possession of any telecommunication service or telecommunication network from an authorized entity," the bill states.

- The bill specifies that the press messages of correspondents **accredited to the Centre or state governments** shall not be intercepted or detained, except under specific circumstances defined by rules applicable to public emergencies or public order.
- Vaishnaw highlighted that the **bill provides for the allocation of spectrum** to satellite communications companies through the administrative method,

aligning with global satellite services companies' demands and rejecting arguments from domestic telecom players.

- The **bill proposes that the central government assigns** spectrum for telecommunications through auction, except for specific entries listed in the First Schedule, for which assignment shall be done through the administrative process.

- The bill incorporates protective measures aimed at **safeguarding telecom infrastructure**, with a specific focus on reinforcing provisions for the seamless deployment of networks, especially those utilizing optical fiber cables.

- In an effort to **facilitate unhindered telecom network installations**, the government proposes exemptions, shielding telecom networks on any property from potential claims, encumbrances, liquidation, or similar issues associated with the property.

Telecommunications Bill- 2023

- The bill **empowers the government to terminate spectrum assignments** in cases where the assigned spectrum is deemed unutilized without adequate justification, providing a mechanism to ensure efficient use of this critical telecom resource.

- To deter **fraudulent practices in obtaining SIM cards** or other telecom resources, the bill introduces penalties, including the possibility of a jail term of up to three years or a fine of up to Rs 50 lakh, creating a legal deterrent against fraud, cheating, or personation in the acquisition process.

RAMP Sub Schemes

- In a significant move towards **fostering sustainable practices** and addressing critical issues faced by micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane unveiled **three pioneering sub-schemes** under the existing RAMP (**Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity**) programme.

- These initiatives **aim to encourage the adoption of sustainable technology**, promote circular economy projects, and tackle the persistent challenge of delayed payments.

- The **MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme** (MSE GIFT Scheme) is designed to propel enterprises towards adopting green technology. This scheme offers interest subvention and credit guarantee support to incentivize MSMEs in embracing environmentally friendly practices.

- A groundbreaking initiative, the **MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy** (MSE SPICE Scheme), marks the government's first-ever support for circular economy projects.

- The MSE SPICE Scheme stands as a testament to the government's dedication to fostering environmentally conscious practices within the MSME sector.

- MSE Scheme **on Online Dispute Resolution**: Addressing Delayed Payments

- In a move to modernize dispute resolution processes, the MSME Ministry introduced the MSE Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments.

- This pioneering scheme synergizes **legal support with modern IT tools** and **artificial intelligence** to expedite the resolution of delayed payments for micro and small enterprises.

- This innovative approach aligns with the government's commitment to leveraging technology for efficient governance and dispute resolution.
- RAMP's primary objectives include **accelerating center-state collaboration** and enhancing existing technology upgrade schemes.
- The program also aims to **strengthen receivable financing markets** and promote green initiatives within Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).
- The program also focuses on **promoting green initiatives** and reducing instances of delayed payments in the MSME sector.

NITI Aayog's Report On Global Green Growth

- **Shri Bhupender Yadav**, the Hon'ble Minister for the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change** and the Ministry of Labour & Employment, launched a G20 report titled '**A Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy'** today in New Delhi.

- In a remarkable **collaborative effort, NITI Aayog**, in partnership with the **International Development Research Centre** (IDRC) and the Global Development Network (GDN), published the report based on the proceedings of the G20 international conference held in New Delhi on 28-29 July 2023.
- The report **summarizes discussions from a policy conference** organized by NITI Aayog, IDRC, and GDN in July 2023, focusing on **green and sustainable growth**.
- As a G20 side event, it engaged 40 leading thinkers in shaping a new growth model**, covering topics like** energy, climate, technology, policy, jobs, trade, global finance, and multilateralism.

- Reflecting **the collaborative G20 spirit,** the report realistically addresses global development challenges, providing benchmarks for researchers and stakeholders.
- It **emphasizes critical recommendations** for shaping dialogue and consensus among member states, with key ideas incorporated into the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.
- Minister Yadav highlighted **India's commitment to collaborative** climate action, emphasizing the need for a swift, just, and equitable transition to renewable energy sources. He stressed that **climate finance and technology** are essential for enabling the Global South to achieve sustainable and green growth.
- Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa, commended NITI Aayog for organizing the international G20 conference and releasing the report. He highlighted the urgency and importance of accelerating global growth, emphasizing the critical role of free trade in lifting vast segments of the population above the poverty line. Kant called for the revitalization of the World Trade Organisation to achieve these goals.

75th Republic Day celebrations

- **President of France Emmanuel Macron** will be the Chief Guest for the **75th Republic Day celebrations**.
- In a statement, the External Affairs Ministry said, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the President of France will visit India for the Republic Day celebrations.

- India and France share a high degree of convergence on a range of regional and global issues.
- This year, both countries are celebrating the **25th anniversary of the India-France** Strategic Partnership. Prime Minister Modi was the Guest of Honour at the **Bastille Day Parade** held on 14 July 2023 in Paris.

CISF Replaces Delhi Police For Parliament Security

- **Ministry of Home Affairs** (MHA) has asked the **Central Industrial Security Force** (CISF) to take security charge of the Parliament building from the Delhi Police.
- The CISF will first **conduct a survey of the premises prior** to the deployment of its security and fire wing. after completing the survey, the CISF will work with the Parliament Security Services to control access to the new and old Parliament complex. At present, frisking of visitors is done by Delhi Police personnel.
- This comes a week after the **December 13 Parliament security breach**, in which two individuals jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitors' gallery, and opened canisters emitting yellow smoke.

CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE
Variations of Camouflage Prints & Styles of Uniforms

- "In-principle approval of the competent authority is conveyed for carrying out the survey of the Parliament premises and its building for regular deployment of CISF **both security wing and fire wing** – on comprehensive pattern under Government Building Security (GBS)."
- **Security within the building will continue** to be the responsibility of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, while the **police will continue** to protect the **outer perimeter.**

- The change - seen as an attempt to streamline protocols instead of having different agencies get in each others' way - will be enforced after the detailed security sweep ordered by the Home Ministry.
- The **CISF provides "integrated security cover to sensitive public sector undertakings"** and currently guards over 350 such locations, including airports, sea ports, and nuclear facilities.
- In **June 1964**, a devastating fire had broken out in **Ranchi's Heavy Engineering Corporation plant,** with reports suggesting sabotage.
- This led to the appointment of the **Justice Mukherjee Commission** which recommended the establishment of a dedicated industrial protection force.
- Thus, the CISF was set up by an Act of Parliament on **March 10, 1969**.

UNESCO Awards

- **UNESCO** has awarded the **resilient urban revitalisation** of **Rambagh Gate and Ramparts in Punjab**, as well as the heritage conservation projects related to **Haryana's Church of Epiphany and Delhi's Bikaner House**.

- The Rambagh Gate and Ramparts project received the highest honor, the **'Award of Excellence**,' for its inclusivity and access to the broader community. Three projects, including the Church of Epiphany and Bikaner House, received an **'Award of Merit.'**
- The **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards** for Cultural Heritage Conservation recognize the efforts of individuals and organizations in restoring and conserving structures of heritage value.
- Twelve projects from China, India, and Nepal were acknowledged by the awards jury this year.
- Three projects - the **Fanling Golf Course in Hong Kong** SAR, China; Dongguan Garden Residences in Yangzhou, China; and **Karnikara Mandapam** at Kunnamangalam Bhagawati Temple, Kerala, India - garnered an 'Award of Distinction' each.

Wrestling Federation of India

- **Sanjay Singh** has been elected the new president of the **Wrestling Federation of India** (WFI).
- The other applicant, Commonwealth Games gold medal-winning wrestler, Anita Sheoran received seven votes.

- Sanjay Singh is the **vice president of the Uttar Pradesh Wrestling Association** and previously served on the WFI's executive council. He has also been the national federation's joint secretary since 2019.
- He will take over the reins of the WFI chief from controversial Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who had to step aside after some wrestlers levelled certain allegations against him.

Chennai Grand Masters 2023

- In **Chennai Grand Masters 2023 tournament**, Indian chess prodigy, **Dommaraju Gukesh** clinched the title by holding compatriot Pentala Harikrishna for a draw, yesterday.
- Meanwhile, **Arjun Erigaisi** secured the second spot. Both Arjun and Gukesh finished the event at 4.5 points out of 7. Gukesh won the tournament on tie-breaks. Pentala Harikrishna finished third with 4 points, as all three Indians in the tournament ended the campaign with a podium finish.
- With this win, **Gukesh takes the lead in the FIDE Circuit**. If he keeps the lead till 1st January 2024, he will qualify for the highly coveted Candidates Tournament 2024.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Ministry Spearheaded Introduction Of RAMP Sub Schemes

A. Ministry of Environment

B. Ministry of Communications

C. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)

D. Ministry of Labour & Employment

ANSWER: C

2. Objective Of MSE GIFT Scheme Introduced Under RAMP

A. Encouraging Digital Literacy

B. Promoting Circular Economy Projects

C. Fostering Green Technology Adoption

D. Addressing Delayed Payments

ANSWER: A

3. Who Will Be Chief Guest For 75th Republic Day Celebrations In

A. Head Of The United States

B. Head Of France

C. Head Of Italy

D. Head Of The United Kingdom

ANSWER: B

4. Who Has Been Elected As New President Of Wrestling Federation Of India

A. Anita Sheoran

B. Sanjay Singh

C. Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

D. Suresh Chauhan

ANSWER: B

5. Winter Solstice Is Observed On

A. 21 December

B. 29 December

C. 21 January

D. 21 November

ANSWER: A

6. **Name Of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute Team's Successful Expedition To Hoisting Of A National Flag Atop Mt Rhenock**
   A. Mission Antarctica
   B. Operation Everest
   C. Project Himalayas
   D. Expedition Arctic
   ANSWER: A

7. **Which Country Decided Not To Renew Agreement With India That Allowed India To Conduct Hydrographic Surveys In Its Waters**
   A. Sri Lanka
   B. Pakistan
   C. Maldives
   D. Bangladesh
   ANSWER: C

8. **Who Received Visionary Leader Icon Award Of Year 2023 From AASRAA At The 5th National Summit In New Delhi**
   A. Irfan Razack
   B. Srinivas Naik Dharavath
   C. Gaurav Pandey
   D. Kushal Pal Singh
   ANSWER: B

9. **Where Was Barracuda, India's Fastest Solar-electric Boat, Launched**
   A. Dal Lake
   B. Varanasi
   C. Pichavaram
   D. Alappuzha
   ANSWER: D

10. **Which Company's Founders Topped Hurun India Top 100 Under 30 List 2023**
    A. Flipkart
    B. Amazon
    C. Big Basket
    D. Zepto
    ANSWER: D

11.Names Of Co Branded Credit Cards Introduced Through Collaboration Of IDFC FIRST Bank, LIC Cards, And Mastercard
A. Master Elite and LIC Gold
B. IDFC FIRST Card and LIC Mastercard
C. LIC Classic and LIC Select
D. Financial Freedom and Platinum Plus
   ANSWER: C

12.Which Financial Institution Has Ventured Into The Paper Packaging Industry In Canpac Trends Private Limited
A. ICICI Bank
B. HDFC Bank
C. State Bank of India
D. Axis Bank
   ANSWER: C

13.Which Maharatna PSU Secured Two Silver Awards At Brandon Hall Group's Excellence In Technology Awards 2023
A. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC)
B. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)
C. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
D. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)
   ANSWER: C

14.What Is Pompe Disease Also Known As
A. Lysosomal Storage Disorder
B. Glycogen Storage Disease Type II
C. Huntington's Disease
D. Cystic Fibrosis
   ANSWER: B

15.When Is The International Day Of Neutrality Observed Annually
A. December 17
B. October 8
C. September 22
D. December 12
   ANSWER: D

16.Who Has Been Appointed As Israel's New Ambassador To India
A. David Cohen
B. Sara Levy
C. Rachel Herzl
D. Reuven Azar
ANSWER: D

17.Name Of AI Language Tool Developed By Government For Real-time Translation Used In A Recent Speech In Uttar Pradesh
A. Bhashini
B. LinguaTranslate
C. GovtTranslate
D. DeepL Translator
ANSWER: A

18.On Which Date Is International Migrants Day 2023 Observed
A. December 18
B. December 21
C. December 15
D. December 9
ANSWER: A

19.With Which Institution Did Kotak Mahindra Bank Collaborate To Establish India's First Fully Integrated School Of Sustainability
A. IIT Delhi
B. IIT Kharagpur
C. IIT Madras
D. IIT Kanpur
ANSWER: D

20.Mekhela Chador Is A Traditional Dress From The State Of
A. Tripura
B. Odisha
C. West Bengal
D. Assam
ANSWER: D