

## FVF RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-september

### TAMIL NADU

- An Archaeological Survey of India team – has discovered an ancient stone tool making place at Vadakkupattu village near Chennai

#### FOUR CIVILIZATIONS

**Early and later Pallava period (from 1,200 years to 1,800 years ago) |** Vishnu, Shivalinga sculptures

**Sangam era (2,000 years ago) |** Roman amphora sherds, glass beads, rouletted ware, gold ornaments, terracotta toys, beads, pieces of bangles, pot sherds and coins

**Mesolithic period (12,000 years ago) |** Stone tools including hand axes, scrapers, cleaver, choppers and stone fragments




C Suresh Kumar



**RICH HAUL:** The excavation site at Vadakkupattu

- ✓ The village is located at about 5km from the Renault Nissan automobile factory at Oragadam on the outskirts of Chennai



- ✓ According to the historians, the 10mx10m stone tool making place must have functioned about 12,000 years ago
  - ✓ The ancient pit also contained artefacts from at least four civilizations separated by hundreds of years
  - ✓ The most important of the finds include hand axes, scrappers, cleaver and choppers from the Mesolithic period.
  - ✓ Besides the Teri sites at Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts, Vadakkupattu is the only place in Tamil Nadu where evidence of tools of the Mesolithic period has been found.
  - ✓ The artefacts were found just 75cm below the surface, along with hundreds of stone fragments.
  - ✓ Sangam era (more than 2,000 years ago) artefacts and rouletted ware, Roman amphora sherds and glass beads indicating active trade with Rome were found at an upper layer of the pit
  - ✓ Further, the historians also found gold ornaments, terracotta toys, beads, pieces of bangles, pot sherds and coins.
  - ✓ In the surrounding area, on the surface, the team discovered sculptures ranging from the early Pallava era (275 CE) to the late Pallavas (897 CE).
- **The total number of artefacts discovered in the eighth phase of Keeladi excavation – has increased to 1,671 with the latest additions**



- ✓ The latest artefacts found at the Keeladi excavation site includes an ivory gamesman, an antimony rod, an iron knife and a copper pendant
- ✓ The eighth phase of the excavation was started in February this year, and the third phase at its cluster villages Konthagai, Manalur and Agaram
- ✓ Among the notable findings in the eighth phase are terracotta human head figurine, cuboidal ivory dice and ear ornament made of ivory.
- ✓ They artefacts include 1,122 glass beads, 203 hopscotches, 34 iron nails, and 31 terracotta spindle whorls.
- ✓ A seven ring well, with an interlocking system, where the top portion of the ring is narrower and bottom portion wider was also found.
- ✓ The eighth phase of the excavation is expected to end in a week or two

# STATES

- **On September 22, the Karnataka government – has tabled a bill in the assembly for effective implementation of Kannada as official language of the state, with English as the second communication language.**
- ✓ The Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Bill, 2022 was tabled in the assembly by Kannada and culture minister V Sunil Kumar
- ✓ According to the bill, Kannada shall be the official language of the state and local authorities, in all bills and acts at the state legislature, orders, rules, regulations or bye-laws issued by the government and its related bodies.
- ✓ All existing legislations in English language enacted by the State before the commencement of this Act shall be translated and published in Kannada.
- ✓ The Bill provides for reservation to Kannadigas in industries and other establishments as per the industrial policy of the state government
  - ✓ Any industry that does not comply with this provision will not be eligible for any concessions offered by the government
- ✓ The bill makes it mandatory to use Kannada in government offices, banks and in higher educational institutions
- ✓ The proposed legislation also provides for the setting up of an Official Language Commission and an enforcement mechanism for implementing the official language at the state, district and taluk levels.
  - ✓ The state committee will have the Minister of Kannada and Culture as Chairperson and Chief Secretary as Vice-Chairperson.
  - ✓ The Directorate of Kannada and Culture shall also be the Directorate of Enforcement of the Official Language.
- ✓ The bill also makes provisions for the use of Kannada in Information Technology services, higher education and billboards
- ✓ The proposed bill stated that students who have studied in Kannada medium from Classes 1 to 10 will get reservation in higher education.
- ✓ As per the bill, the District Courts or Trial Courts and Tribunals shall conduct proceedings and pronounce the orders and judgments in Kannada
- ✓ Industries and commercial establishments who violate the Bill's provisions will be fined Rs 5,000 for first time offence, Rs 10,000 for second time and Rs 20,000 for the third time
- ✓ The new Bill seeks to replace the Karnataka Official Language Act, 1963 and Karnataka Local Authorities (Official Language) Act, 1981
- ✓ The bill defines Kannadiga as a person who is a resident of Karnataka for not less than 15 years and having knowledge of reading and writing Kannada
- **The Manipur cabinet - has decided to extend the disturbed area status under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act for one more year.**



- ✓ The extension will, however, not cover the jurisdiction of 15 police stations from where the act was withdrawn.
- ✓ In July 2004, the state government had lifted the disturbed area status from the jurisdiction of six police stations in Imphal municipal areas covering seven assembly segments in the same year.
- ✓ Civil rights activist Irom Sharmila Chanu on August 9, 2016, ended her long 16-year fast against the military AFSPA and entered into electoral politics before launching a new social campaign against the act.
- ✓ Following the Centre's decision, the Act was further withdrawn on April 1 from the jurisdiction of nine police stations

## NATIONAL

- **The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) - has released the draft Indian Telecommunications 2022 bill for public consultation and stakeholder comments by October 20**

# New law to overhaul telecom regulations

The government unveiled the Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022 to replace a clutch of old laws, especially the colonial-era Telegraph Act of 1885. A look at the draft law's key features

## THE KEY FEATURES

### Key measures to aid industry

#### 1 Easing distress

The draft has proposed a special framework in case there is default in payment by a licensee, registered entity or assignee of any amount. The government can determine extraordinary circumstances of financial stress, consumer interest, maintaining competition in the sector, or reliability and continued supply of services, and in turn can defer, convert into shares, write-off, or provide relief of full or part of the payment amount.

**The bill also proposes that the government can have the power to waive fee, interest, additional charges, penalty or grant exceptions from the provisions of the bill once it becomes an Act.**

#### 2 Enabling spectrum sharing

The draft lays down some crucial principles for industry, such as how mobile telephone spectrum can be returned, license winners can re-farm, share, trade and lease their airwaves, and how spectrum will be allowed to be surrendered.

#### 3 Regulatory stability

The bill also provides that the terms and conditions of a license, registration, authorisation, or assignment, as the case may be, will not be modified with retrospective effect. This, the government said, will remove any uncertainty for industry stakeholders.

### Recognising modern tech

#### In services

The law it sets out to replace, the Indian Telegraph Act 1885, was put into force even before most cities in India had a telephone exchange. The new law now seeks to account for modern technologies. It recognises, for instance, over-the-top (OTT) communication services, a classification that includes WhatsApp.

**For instance, it redefines a "message" as "any sign, signal, writing, image, sound, video, data stream or intelligence or information intended for telecommunication".**

This, in effect, will cover services such as WhatsApp, text messages, as well as voice and video calls, and email, voice mail etc.

#### In networks

In terms of telecommunications networks, it identifies distinctions in known services, like broadband services and satellite-based communication services, but also talks of in-flight and maritime connectivity services and machine to machine communication services.

## Clear principles laid down

The bill, according to an explanatory note by the government, recognises the "globally established" principle of exclusive privilege of the central government in relation to telecommunication services, telecommunication network, telecommunication infrastructure and spectrum. This essentially codifies government's prerogatives as the issuer of licenses.

## The concerns

Under Section 24, the law proposes to give the government the authority to intercept any message (a definition that also includes calls) if it feels it is "necessary or expedient" to do so for reasons of security, public order and to protect friendly relations with states. The "necessary" and "expedient" tests do not include the test for proportionality, which was laid down by the Supreme Court in the 2017 Puttaswamy judgment that made privacy a fundamental right.

**1.17 bn** Estimated subscribers of telecommunication services in the country

**8% of GDP** Estimated contribution of the industry to the economy



- ✓ The proposed Bill aims to introduce major changes in governing the Telecommunications sector, primarily by giving the Centre more powers in several areas.
- ✓ The draft Bill seeks to replace three separate laws that govern the telecommunications sector — Indian Telegraph Act 1885, Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act 1933, and The Telegraph Wires, (Unlawful Protection) Act 1950
- ✓ The bill has provisions to waive fees, charges, and penalties of any company if required to protect the interest of consumers or ensure fair competition.
- ✓ The bill seeks to simplify the framework for mergers, demergers and acquisitions, or other forms of restructuring, by only requiring intimation to the licensing authority
- ✓ The bill confers upon the Union government "exclusive privilege" in connection with all telecommunication services, networks, infrastructure, and spectrum.
- ✓ The draft telecom bill makes it mandatory for top social media giants such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to obtain a licence from the government to operate like other telecom operators.
- ✓ It proposes to bring Internet-based and over-the-top (OTT) communication services such as WhatsApp calls, Facetime, Google Meet, in-flight and maritime connectivity services, machine-to-machine communication services and interpersonal communications services under the laws governing the telecom industry.
  - ✓ If these services are brought under the ambit of telecom services, they will need a licence to offer services.
- ✓ The bill also proposes the central government will have the sole discretion to grant a licence to an entity to operate as a telecommunication services provider.
- ✓ Further, it adds that the firms will need to comply with several obligations, including providing a mandated identification of their users.
- ✓ The mandate, if becomes a law, will require Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp to identify the user of its services through a verifiable mode of identification.
- ✓ The draft Bill also proposes to change the name of the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to the Telecommunication Development Fund (TDF).
  - ✓ The amount received under USOF comes from 5% of the annual revenue of telecom services providers.
  - ✓ The fund will be utilised to boost connectivity services in underserved rural, remote, and urban areas.
  - ✓ It will also aid research and development of new telecommunication services, skill development, and support the introduction of new telecommunication services
- ✓ The Bill provides for the right of appeal before the appellate authority
- ✓ In case of insolvency, spectrum assigned to the entity shall revert to government control.
- ✓ The bill includes a provision to waive off fees of telecom service providers if they surrender their licence.



- ✓ India has the world's second-largest telecommunication ecosystem with 117 crore subscribers and 4 million employees, contributing about 8% of the country's GDP
- **The Ayush ministry - has cancelled the licence of the company Neolacta, which was into sale of human breast milk for profit**
- ✓ As per the ministry, the collection and selling of mother's milk involved several ethical issues including human rights and women's rights which are very sensitive.
- ✓ The state licensing authority of Karnataka, which had issued the licence in November 2021, issued the cancellation order on August 29.
- ✓ Earlier, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) cancelled Neolacta's licence to sell human breast milk on the complaint of Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)
- ✓ Following this, the company continued to sell mother's milk by obtaining an Ayush licence in November 2021 for its product dubbed 'Nariksheera' (breastmilk).
- **The Hyderabad-based International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-H) – has launched a pilot of new project 'iRASTE' in Nagpur**



- ✓ The project, curated by INAI (an AI wing of IIIT-H), involves fixing hitech cameras on state buses plying on highways to avoid road accidents

- ✓ The hitech cameras are built using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology
- ✓ It will send out audio-video alerts to the bus driver every time it senses a potential collision — either with another vehicle or a road user ahead — so as to driver can act in time to avoid it
- ✓ The stretches chosen for the pilot includes the Hyderabad-Vijayawada and Hyderabad-Bengaluru highway
- ✓ As per the findings, the system helped in reducing dangerous driving among drivers by about 48%
- ✓ As part of the project, 50 AI-based Collision Avoidance Systems (CAS) were fitted on buses to study the common dangerous driving mistakes committed by drivers.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On September 22, Cambodia's UN-backed Khmer Rouge tribunal - convicted just three people in its final hearing.**
- ✓ The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia has been given charge of prosecuting the crimes of the Khmer Rouge regime
- ✓ The tribunal rejected an appeal by Khieu Samphan, the communist movement's last surviving leader, upholding his conviction and life sentence for genocide and other crimes.



- ✓ The 91-year old Samphan was convicted in 2018 of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes and sentenced to life in prison.
- ✓ During its four years in power, from 1975 to 1979, the Khmer Rouge caused the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians from execution, torture, starvation and untreated disease
- ✓ It was ousted from power in 1979 by an invasion from neighbouring communist state Vietnam.
- ✓ The tribunal spent \$337 million and 16 years to convict just Samphan and two other defendants in connection with a reign of terror
- ✓ The Khmer Rouge's real chief, Pol Pot, escaped justice and died in the jungle in 1998 at age 72
- ✓ Only five people were put on trial, two of whom died before facing judgment.

# DEFENCE

- On September 22, the defence ministry - signed a Rs.1,700 crore contract for supply of additional BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, with a strike range of 290-km, for the Navy's frontline warships.



- ✓ The contract for the “dual role” surface-to-surface missiles - capable of both land attack and anti-ship strikes - was signed between the MoD’s acquisitions wing and the M/s BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd.
- ✓ The contract will boost indigenous production of the critical weapon system and ammunition, with active participation of the domestic industry
- ✓ The BrahMos has emerged as the “precision-strike conventional (non-nuclear) weapon” for the Indian armed forces over the years, with contracts worth over Rs.38,000 crore signed till now.
- ✓ BrahMos has the capability to fly at almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8
- ✓ The range of BrahMos, jointly produced by Russia, has also been extended from the original 290-km to 350-400km now, while a 800-km variant is also in the works.
- ✓ In January, the Indian Navy’s latest guided-missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam, which was commissioned in November last year, had successfully tested the missile's extended range version.
- ✓ Ten frontline warships are already armed with the missiles, while the vertical launch systems have also been installed on another five warships.
- ✓ The Army’s BrahMos missile batteries have been deployed in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, along with tanks, howitzers, surface-to-air missiles and other weapons
- ✓ The IAF, on its part, has inducted two land-based BrahMos squadrons, while the sleeker air-launched version is also being progressively fitted on Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets.
- ✓ With a combat radius of almost 1,500-km without mid-air refuelling, a Sukhoi armed with BrahMos constitutes a formidable long-range weapons package.
- ✓ India is also in the process of supplying the BrahMos missiles to the Philippines under the \$375 million (Rs. 2,770 crore) contract signed in January this year



- ✓ This is the first such export order that is expected to pave the way for more such deals with Philippines as well as other Asean countries like Indonesia and Vietnam.
- ✓ UAE, Saudi Arabia and South Africa are among the other countries that have shown an interest in acquiring the BrahMos missiles

## SPORTS

- **Tennis legends Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal - will team up for the men's doubles category in the Laver Cup on September 23**



- ✓ This will also mark the final match of Roger Federer's illustrious career as he recently announced retirement from competitive tennis.
- ✓ Winner of 20 grand slam titles, Federer and winner of record 22 majors, Nadal will pair up for Team Europe against the Team World duo Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock, who were also the semifinalists in the US Open
- ✓ In the past, the two legends have paired up to win the doubles match in the 2017 Laver Cup.
- ✓ Team Europe also features 21-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic and former world number 1 Andy Murray
- ✓ On the first day, Casper Rudd will play against Jack Sock, Stefanos Tsitsipas will face Diego Schwartzman and Murray will play Alex de Minaur in the singles category
- ✓ The 41-year-old Federer is retiring after the Laver Cup following a series of operations on his right knee.
- ✓ He hasn't competed in singles or doubles since a quarterfinal loss at Wimbledon to Hubert Hurkacz in July 2021.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **International Day of Sign Language – September 23**
- ✓ The day is observed every year to support the development and preservation of sign language used by the people with hearing impairment



- ✓ The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, an international human rights treaty of the UN, recognizes the use of sign languages and gives it equal status to spoken languages
- ✓ The proposal to observe the International Day of Sign Languages came from the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).
- ✓ The WFD is a federation of 135 national associations of deaf people, representing around 70 million deaf people around the world.
- ✓ The first International Day of Sign Languages was celebrated in 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf, celebrated from 24-30 September
- ✓ The International Week of the Deaf was first observed in September 1958
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Sign Language Unite Us."
- ✓ The date September 23 was chosen to commemorate the day on which the World Federation of the Deaf was established in Rome in the year 1951

#### ➤ **World Rhino Day – September 22**



- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about the different species of Rhinoceros and the dangers faced by them.
- ✓ This day also celebrates all five rhino species namely the Sumatran, Black, Greater One-horned, Javan, and White rhino species.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - Five Rhino Species Forever
- ✓ The day's announcement was first done in 2010 by WWF-South Africa due to the joint effort of Lisa Jane Campbell of Chishakwe Ranch in Zimbabwe and Rhishja Cota and the first ever World Rhino Day was observed in 2011

- ✓ In India, Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam is home to 65% of the world's one-horned rhinos
- ✓ Spreading over 884 square kilometers in the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam, Kaziranga National Park was created in 1908 on the recommendation of Komairi Curzon.
- ✓ This park was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the year 1985.

