



Indian Telegraph Right of Way -Amendment Rules, 2022

For Prelims: 5G, Fiberisation, Related Government Initiatives, Digital India mission and BharatNet project, Digital Divide.

For Mains: Indian Telegraph Right of Way -Amendment Rules, 2022.

Why in News?

In a bid to expedite the rollout of [5G networks](#) in the country, the Ministry of Communications announced amendments to the [Right of Way \(RoW\)](#).

What are the Amendments?

- The amendments include **rationalisation of charges, introduction of a single window clearance system** and doing away with the need for consent from a government authority for installing infrastructure over private property.
- Telecom licensees **can enter into agreement with private property owners and will not require any permission from any government** authority for installing telecom infrastructure such as towers, poles or optical fibre.
- **No administrative fee shall be charged** by the Central government for the establishment of poles on land owned/controlled by it.
 - **For State/UTs, this fee will be limited to Rs 1,000 per pole.** The fee for laying overground optical fibre shall be limited to Rs 1,000/ Km.
- Telecom companies will need to submit **details of the building or structure, where the establishment of a mobile tower or pole is proposed**, and a copy of certification by a structural engineer, authorised by the appropriate authority, attesting to the structural safety of the building or structure, where the mobile tower or pole is proposed to be established.
- The amendments provide for **a single window clearance system for RoW applications.**
- **Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal** of the Ministry of Communications will be the single window portal for all telecom related RoW applications.
- The telecom licences will be able to use street infrastructure to deploy telecom equipment at a nominal cost of Rs 150 annually in rural areas and Rs 300 annually in urban areas.

Why are these Amendments Announced?

- The Amendments are announced to expedite **upgradation and expansion of telecom networks** and to **pave the way for the deployment of 5G small cells on existing street infrastructure.**
- The current infrastructure may be able to sustain the rollout of services. However, experts say **at least 70 % of the telecom towers need to be fiberized from the current level of 33 %** to roll out 5G in a way that utilises its full potential.
 - **Fiberization** is essential for 5G due to the **increasing data consumption and growth in India compared to the 2G and 3G wireless** technologies, which work on a shared network and have a limited capacity to handle an increase in load.

- Access to the existing infrastructure, deployment of new infrastructure, and the high cost involved in it **were major challenges the telecom sector always came across** which will now be eased down.

What is the Significance of the Move?

- The telecom industry is giving equal importance to rural areas and urban areas, it is predicted that the **5G services will reach almost all parts of the country** in the next 2-3 years.
- The Amendment will ensure the **speedy roll-out of the technology** and make the dream of **5G enable India** to come true.
- The **digital divide** between rural-urban and rich-poor will be bridged, in line with the **Digital India mission** and **BharatNet project**.
- **E-governance** and financial inclusion will be strengthened.
- **Doing business** will be easy.
- **Information and communication** needs of citizens and enterprises will be fulfilled (including **5G**).
- The dream of India's transition to a **digitally empowered economy** and society will be translated into reality.

Source: [TH](#)

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