



India Internet Governance Forum 2022

For Prelims: India Internet Governance Forum 2022

For Mains: Internet Governance, Fundamental Rights, Government Policies & Interventions

Why in News?

Recently, the Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship addressed the India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2022.

- **Theme for 2022:** 'Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat'.
- The event's goal is to **discuss the roadmap to digitization and to reaffirm India's place on the global stage** by emphasising its role and importance in international policy development on internet governance.

What is IIGF?

- It is an **initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN-IGF)**.
 - UN-IGF is a multi-stakeholder platform bringing together representatives from various groups, considering all to be at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.
 - The IGF is an **outcome of the Tunis Agenda of the World Summit** on the Information Society that took place in 2005.
 - Since its first meeting, in 2006, the **IGF has been convened annually by the United Nations Secretary-General**, in accordance with the mandate set out in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

What is the State of India's Internet Connectivity?

- **India is the largest Connected Nation:**
 - India is the **largest 'connected' nation in the world with 800 million Indian users**.
 - **5G** and the largest rural broadband connectivity network project at **BharatNet** will have 1.2 billion Indian users constituting the single largest presence of the global internet.
 - India also has **improved accessibility to the internet to countries in the Global South** which have not been able to step up and create the same sort of pace of digitization of the economy as internetization of their economies.
- **Benefits of Internet:**

- These benefits include **increased productivity, financial independence, and greater access to information.**

What is Internet Governance?

▪ About:

- Internet Governance, broadly defined, is the **development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society**, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.
- It covers **activities such as development and coordination of technical standards**, operation of critical infrastructure and public policy issues.
- Internet Governance involves Internet Protocol Addressing (IP Addressing), Domain Name System (DNS), Routing, Technical Innovations, Standardization, Security, Public Policy, Privacy, Legal Issues, Cyber Norms, Intellectual Property and taxation.

▪ Layers of internet Governance:

- Physical Infrastructure layer
- Code or Logical layer
- Content layer
- Security

▪ India's Approach:

- India supports a **multi-stakeholder approach in matters on Internet Governance.**
- On matters relating to national security, the **Government will continue to have supreme right and control.**
- India's strength in the sector is its industry and human resource which can be leveraged in a multi-stakeholder approach.

▪ Challenges:

- Continuously evolving nature of the internet, concentration of digital power in a few companies and countries, decision making skewed to the supply side rather than to the demand side etc.

[Source: PIB](#)

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