



Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider Authorization

For Prelims: [Telecom Regulatory Authority of India](#), [National Digital Communications Policy](#), [Radio Access Network](#), [E-commerce](#), [IoT](#), [Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission](#), [Smart Cities](#), [Digital India](#).

For Mains: Significance of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure

Source: [PIB](#)

Why in News?

[Telecom Regulatory Authority of India \(TRAI\)](#) recently released recommendations on **'Introduction of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider Authorization under Unified License (UL)**.

- These recommendations are in alignment with the [National Digital Communications Policy \(NDCP-2018\)](#), which underscores the pivotal role of digital infrastructure in driving economic growth and improving the quality of life.

What are the Major Recommendations of TRAI?

- **Creation of DCIP Authorization:** TRAI recommends the creation of a new category of license, the **Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) Authorization**.
 - This authorization allows for the creation of both active and passive digital connectivity infrastructure.
 - The DCIP authorization is not a standalone license but falls **under the Unified License framework**. This move aims to encourage the emergence of players specialized in creating active and passive DCI.
 - Unified License offers service-wise authorizations, where licensees establish networks and use them to provide services.
- **Scope of DCIP Authorization:** The scope of the proposed DCIP authorization is extensive, covering the **ownership, establishment, maintenance, and operation** of various components such as **Wireline Access Network**, [Radio Access Network \(RAN\)](#), **Wi-Fi systems**, **Transmission Links** etc.
 - However, it excludes core network elements and [spectrum](#).
- **Self-Regulation and Compliance:** To ensure compliance with security conditions, **Quality of Service (QoS)**, and other license obligations, TRAI proposes a principal-agent relationship between DCIPs and licensed entities.
- **Sharing of Infrastructure:** DCIP licensees are allowed to **share their infrastructure with other UL licensees and [Internet Service Providers \(ISPs\)](#)**, subject to certain conditions.
 - This sharing fosters increased collaboration, cost reduction, and efficient service delivery.
- **Access to Eligible Entities:** DCIP licensees are recommended to provide DCI items, equipment, and systems on **lease/rent/sale basis to entities with valid licenses under the [Telegraph Act 1885](#)** and those notified by the Government for this purpose.
 - This extends to DCIP licensees who are **also licensed under the Electricity Act**, promoting access to their infrastructure on an access rights basis.

What is the Significance of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure?

▪ About:

- In the modern age of [digital transformation](#), digital connectivity infrastructure has emerged as a cornerstone of **economic growth, social progress, and technological innovation as highlighted in NDCP-2018.**
- TRAI's recent recommendations aim to establish a framework for **integrating DCI into building development plans**, analogous to other essential services like water, electricity, and fire safety systems.

▪ Significance:

- **Facilitating Communication and Information Flow:** Digital connectivity infrastructure, including **broadband networks and mobile services**, enables instant communication across geographical boundaries.
 - It facilitates the **exchange of information, ideas, and knowledge**, contributing to the growth of education, research, and innovation.
- **Driving Economic Growth:** Digital connectivity is a catalyst for economic development by providing businesses with access to a global marketplace.
 - [E-commerce](#), **online services, and digital platforms** leverage connectivity to reach customers and streamline operations, leading to increased trade and economic activity.
- **Empowering Digital Services:** The availability of **high-speed internet and reliable connectivity** is essential for the deployment of digital services such as [telemedicine](#), **e-governance**, and [online education](#).
 - These services improve accessibility, efficiency, and inclusivity, enhancing overall quality of life.
- **Enhancing Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Digital connectivity infrastructure fosters innovation by enabling **collaboration, data sharing, and remote work**.
 - Entrepreneurs can leverage online platforms to develop and launch innovative products and services, contributing to economic diversification.
- **Supporting Industry Transformation:** Industries like manufacturing, agriculture, and healthcare are undergoing digital transformation, relying on connectivity to **implement automation, IoT, and data analytics**.
 - **Smart factories, precision agriculture, and telemedicine** are just a few examples of how connectivity is revolutionizing traditional sectors.
- **Bridging the Digital and Social Divide:** Digital connectivity infrastructure helps bridge the digital divide by providing previously underserved or remote areas with access to information, education, and economic opportunities.
 - It **contributes to social inclusion and reduces inequalities** by ensuring that all segments of society can benefit from technological advancements.
- **Minimum Government Maximum Governance:** It enables the streamlined implementation of various governmental initiatives, such as [Digital India](#), **Make in India**, [Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission \(ABDM\)](#), and the development of [Smart Cities](#).
 - Digital public infrastructure is also one of [India's G-20 priorities](#).

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year's Question (PYQs)

Prelims:

Q. Consider the following statements about G-20: (2023)

1. The G-20 group was originally established as a platform for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss the international economic and financial issues.
2. Digital public infrastructure is one of India's G-20 priorities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (c)

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