



# Telecommunications (Critical Telecommunication Infrastructure) Rules, 2024

[Source: HT](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, the **Telecommunications (Critical Telecommunication Infrastructure) Rules, 2024**, were released under the [Telecommunications Act, 2023](#).

- It aims to regulate telecom networks designated as [Critical Telecommunication Infrastructure \(CTI\)](#) based on their potential impact on **national security, economy, public health, or safety**.
- In another development, **Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024** came into effect replacing the [Telecom Suspension Rules, 2017](#).

## What are the Provisions of the Telecommunications (CTI) Rules, 2024?

- **Data and Network Access: Telecom entities** whose networks are designated as CTI must give access to government-authorised personnel to **inspect hardware, software and data** of certified CTI parts.
- **Oversight and Reporting:** The rules require appointment of a **chief telecom security officer (CTSO)** to oversee implementation.
  - Entities must report **cyber security incidents** within **6 hours**.
- **Required Documentation:** The telecom entity must provide the government with **CTI network details, authorized personnel, hardware/software inventory, vulnerabilities**, crisis management plans, security audits, compliance reports, and service level agreements (SLAs).
- **Repair and Upgradation:** Remote repair or maintenance of CTI from outside India requires **prior written government approval**.
  - For upgrades to **software or hardware**, entities must submit **test reports** for government review.
- **Government Standards:** All CTI hardware, software, and spares must comply with government standards, including **Essential, Interface, and Security Assurance Requirements**, and other notified standards.

## What are Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024?

- **Mandatory Publication:** All orders suspending telecom services, including internet shutdowns, must be published with **specific reasons, geographical area, and duration**.
  - The suspension duration cannot exceed **15 days**.
- **Competent Authority:** The suspension order can only be issued by the "competent authority," which is the **union [home secretary](#)** for the **central government and the state home secretary for states**.
- **Review Mechanism:** A **review committee** is required to meet within **5 days** of an order's issuance to review its validity.
  - The central review committee is chaired by [the cabinet secretary](#) while the state committee is chaired by the [chief secretary](#).

- **Nodal Officers:** Licensed service providers must appoint a **nodal officer** per service area **to receive and implement suspension orders.**
- **Secure Communication:** Only officers ranked **superintendent of police** or higher can communicate these orders, in **writing or via secure electronic means.**

**Note:** In the *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India, Case 2020*, the **Supreme Court** emphasized that government-imposed **restrictions on Internet** access must be **temporary, limited, lawful, necessary, and proportionate.**

## **UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

### **Prelims**

**Q. In India, the term “Public Key Infrastructure” is used in the context of (2020)**

- (a) Digital security infrastructure
- (b) Food security infrastructure
- (c) Health care and education infrastructure
- (d) Telecommunication and transportation infrastructure

**Ans: (a)**

**Q. In India, which of the following review the Independent regulators in sectors like telecommunications, insurance, electricity, etc.? (2019)**

1. Ad Hoc Committees set up by the Parliament
2. Parliamentary Department Related Standing Committees
3. Finance Commission
4. Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission
5. NITI Aayog

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 3, 4 and 5
- (d) 2 and 5

**Ans: (a)**

