Draft National Telecom Policy

Prelims: *Importance of national and international importance | General science.*

Why in News?

Recently, the Indian government unveiled a new telecom policy draft for public comment.

- **Aim** – It is to transform India into a global telecom powerhouse by 2030.
- **Key Features - Job Creation –** It aims at attracting Rs 1 lakh crore investments annually, while creating *10 lakh new jobs* in the sector by 2030.
- **Innovation and R&D -** It has set a target to create an innovation-centric non-profit company and attain 10% global share in 6G-related intellectual property rights by 2030.
- **Digital access -** Intended to set up 1 million Wi-Fi hotspots.
- **Global recognition -** Indian participation in international standardisation discussions, particularly of 6G, including activities as a Corporate Social Responsibility activity.
- **Aid in achieving Make in India -** Domestic manufacturing is expected to increase by 150% by 2030.
- **Universal connectivity -** Target of covering 90% of the population with 5G and 100% with 4G by 2030.
- **Boosting fibre linkage –** The goal is to raise the proportion of telecom towers connected via fibre networks from the current 46% to 80%.
- To improve speed and reliability, in contrast to slower, less dependable wireless or indirect physical connections.
- **Strengthening the network –** Improving sector-specific focus to increase connectivity.
- **Building resilience –** Ensuring the modernisation of the domestic telecom supply chain.
- **Satellite internet -** Connecting underserved areas with last-mile connectivity.
- **Domestic innovation -** Boosting local research and development (R&D) efforts for indigenisation products.
- **Enhancement of skill -** Upskilling a similar number of existing workers.
- **Eco-shift -** Emphasises reducing the sector's carbon footprint by 30%.
- **AI with cyber defence -** Encourages the use and development of AI specifically for cyberspace, such as in cybersecurity.
    - **Offensive strategies -** Tackle the challenge, such as through generative AI-fuelled bots attacking telecom networks.
    - **Defensive strategies** - Systems that use AI to detect large attacks and thwart them at an early stage.
    - **Quick resolution -** Suggests utilising AI in complaint resolution through a unified portal and the use of chatbots.
- **Cross-border security -** Focus on security with specific strategies to monitor Indian

and foreign satellites.
- Enhance mitigation of satellite carrier interference and increase monitoring in border areas to minimise cross-border spillage.
- **Digital trust -** Ensuring trusted users by a mobile number validation service, to allow institutions to verify an individual mobile user's identity.
- **Quantum communications –** Building a Secure interface with encrypted security.
- **Recycle & reuse -** A circular economy imperative for recycling materials from in-use telecom equipment.

References

1. The Hindu| The New Telecom Policy Draft
2. Times of India| Telecom Policy Draft

