

Chinese tried to change LAC status quo: Rajnath

Indian Army bravely prevented the PLA from transgressing into our territory and compelled them to return to their posts, Defence Minister tells Parliament about the clash at Yangtse

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Chinese troops unilaterally tried to alter the status quo on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 and the move was contested by Indian soldiers in a firm and resolute manner, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

Making a statement in both Houses of Parliament on the clash at Yangtse in Tawang sector, Mr. Singh said: "The ensuing face-off led to a physical scuffle in which the Indian Army bravely prevented the PLA [People's Liberation Army] from transgressing into our territory and compelled them to return to their posts. The scuffle led to in-



Calling for peace: The Chinese side was asked to maintain peace and tranquillity along the border, Rajnath Singh told Parliament. PH

juries to a few personnel on both sides."

"I wish to share with the House that there are no fatalities or serious casualties on our side," he said.

Meanwhile, speaking to the media outside Parliament, Home Minister Amit Shah said: "No one can capture an inch of land till the Narendra Modi govern-

ment is in power. The BJP government will not allow any incursion on land. We will not leave an inch of land. The bravery shown by soldiers is appreciable, they have saved our land."

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UPROAR IN PARLIAMENT
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PLA blames India for latest face-off at LAC

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

The Chinese military on Tuesday blamed India for triggering the December 9 clash by "illegally crossing" the Line of Actual Control (LAC). People's Liberation Army Senior Colonel Long Shaohua, spokesperson for the Western Theatre Command, said the Chinese military was conducting "a regular patrol in the Dongzhang area" on "the Chinese side of the LAC".

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01

Chinese tried to change LAC status quo: Rajnath

What's the source of tension?

- China and India share a disputed 3,440km (2,100 mile) long de facto border - called the Line of Actual Control, or LAC - which is poorly demarcated.
- Rivers, lakes and snowcaps along the frontier mean the line can shift, bringing soldiers face to face at many points, sparking a confrontation.
- The two nations are also competing to build infrastructure along the border, which is also known as the Line of Actual Control.
- India's construction of a new road to a high-altitude air base is seen as one of the main triggers for a clash with Chinese troops in June that left at least 20 Indian soldiers dead.

Why wasn't any firearm used in conflict?

• 1996 Agreement

- The 1996 agreement is on **Confidence-Building Measures** in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas.
- Article VI (1) of the 1996 agreement says “With a view to preventing dangerous military activities along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas... **Neither side shall open fire**, cause bio-degradation, use hazardous chemicals, conduct blast operations or hunt with guns or explosives within two kilometres from the line of actual control. This prohibition shall not apply to routine firing activities in small arms firing ranges.”
- However, it is Article VI (4) that is more applicable in the current instance: “If the border personnel of the two sides come in a face-to-face situation due to differences on the alignment of the line of actual control or any other reason, they **shall exercise self-restraint** and take all necessary steps to avoid an escalation of the situation. Both sides shall also enter into immediate consultations through diplomatic and/or other available channels to review the situation and prevent any escalation of tension.”

• 2005 Agreement

- In Article 1: “the two sides will resolve the boundary question through peaceful and friendly consultations. **Neither side shall use or threaten to use force** against the other by any means”.
- The 2013 Agreement on Border Defence Cooperation also stated that **neither side shall use its military capability** against the other.
- Since no round has been fired on the Sino-India border in Ladakh after 1962 and with a view to preventing any escalation, these routines of not firing have been drilled into the soldiers.

13th December THNA

ALJAZEERA



**MAPPING INDIA AND
CHINA'S DISPUTED
BORDERS**

OIC chief's visit to LoC sparks fresh criticism

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday strongly condemned the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) saying the organisation had “lost its credibility”.

The comment from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came after the organisation's Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taha visited the Line of Control (LoC) from the Pakistani side and was briefed of the situation by the Pakistan military.

FULL REPORT ON

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02

OIC chief's visit to LOC sparks fresh criticism

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

Basics

- The OIC claims to be the “collective voice of the Muslim world”.
- It was established at a 1969 summit in Rabat (Morocco) after what it describes as the ‘criminal arson’ of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.
- It consisting of 57 member states, with a collective population of over 1.8 billion as of 2015 with 53 countries being Muslim-majority countries.
- The OIC has permanent delegations to the United Nations and the European Union. The official languages of the OIC are Arabic, English, and French.
- It is headquartered in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Objectives:

- The OIC endeavours to establish solidarity among member states.
- To support restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of any member state under occupation.
- To protect, defend and combat defamation of Islam.
- To prevent growing dissension in Muslim societies and work to ensure that member states take a united stand at the U. N. General Assembly, Human Rights Council and other international fora.

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

Criticism of the OIC?

- **Prioritise Rights of Muslim Minorities:**
 - The OIC had become a premise for ‘window dressing’, more interested in the rights of Muslim minorities in places such as Palestine or Myanmar than the human rights violations of its member states.
- **Incompetent at investigating Human Rights Violations:**
 - The body lacks power and resources to investigate human rights violations or enforce its decisions through signed treaties and declarations.
- **Centred around Quranic Values:**
 - The organisation is largely restricted to arbitrating in conflicts where both parties are Muslims.
 - This is because the organisation is centred around Quranic values, which, it believes, makes it a qualified arbitrator.
- **Failed to Establish a Cooperative Venture:**
 - The OIC has failed to establish a cooperative venture among its members, who were either capital-rich and labour-scarce countries or manpower-rich and capital scarce.
 - The organization has not evolved to become a significant player either in international politics or in the area of economic cooperation.

OIC and India

- As a country with the world’s second largest Muslim community, India had been invited to the founding conference at Rabat in 1969, but was humiliatingly ejected at Pakistan’s behest.
- Pakistan’s opposition to India’s entry has prevented it from being a part of the body.
- Pakistan also argues that India’s entry will violate a rule of the OIC that a state that wished to be a part of the OIC should not have conflicts with any member-state
- India stayed away because of a multiplicity of reasons:
 - It did not want to join an organisation founded on religion.
 - There was the risk that improving bilateral relations with individual member states would come under pressure in a grouping, especially on issues such as Kashmir.

Collegium recommends five judges to top court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Tuesday recommended the names of five judges for appointment in the top court and three for elevation as Chief Justices of High Courts (HC).

The five judges recommended to the government for appointment as Supreme Court judges are Rajasthan HC Chief Justice Pankaj Mishra, Patna HC Chief Justice Sanjay Karol, Manipur HC Chief Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar, Patna HC judge Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, and Allahabad HC judge Justice Manoj Misra, in that order of seniority. If the government appoints them, the vacancies in the top court will come down to one.

The Collegium proposed the names of Uttarakhand HC judge Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as CJ of the Jharkhand High Court. The incumbent Chief Justice, Dr. Ravi Ranjan, is retiring on December 19, 2022.

Gauhati HC judge Justice N. Kottiswar Singh was recommended for elevation as the CJ of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court. The incumbent Chief Justice, Ali Mohd. Magrey, retired on December 7, 2022.

Kerala HC judge Justice K. Vinod Chandran was recommended for elevation as the CJ of the Gauhati High Court. The current Gauhati CJ, Rashmin Manharbhat Chhaya, is retiring in January next year.

03

Collegium recommends five judges to top court

What is Collegium system?

9th December THNA



Art. 124

(2) Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years:

Provided that in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of India shall always be consulted

First Judges Case (1981)

- S.P. Gupta v Union of India
- Consultation doesn't mean concurrence

9th December THNA



Second Judges Case (1993)

- Consultation means concurrence



Advice of SC

- President under the provisions of Art. 143 asked advice on whether the advice of CJI is his sole opinion or not?



Third Judges Case (1998)

- SC clarified that it is not the sole opinion of CJI and he must consult 4 other senior most SC judges.
- Expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues



99th Amendment

- Parliament enacted 99th CAA and formed National Judicial appointments committee to make judicial appointments



Fourth Judges Case (2015)

- The NJAC Act was termed unconstitutional and was struck down, citing it as having affected the independence of the judiciary

Issues with the current collegium system

9th December THNA

The collegium system does not provide any guidelines or criteria for the appointment of the Supreme Court judges and it increases the ambit of favouritism.

In the collegium system, there are no criteria for testing the candidate or for doing a background check to establish the credibility of the candidate. The absence of an administrative body is also a reason for worry because it means that the members of the collegium system are not answerable for the selection of any of the judges.

The 'Second Judges Case' established the supremacy of the judiciary over the executive. This system disturbs the principle of check and balance. The check and balance principle is necessary because it ensures that no organ of democracy is exercising its power in an excessive manner.

NJAC was struck down for its unconstitutionality, but a closer look at the collegium system tells us that even though the collegium system is not mentioned anywhere in the Constitution, rather it has evolved over a period of time from different landmark cases.

The collegium system lacks transparency.

Nepotism has been often witnessed in the judiciary due to a lack of criteria for the appointment of judges. Nepotism leads to mediocrity due to biases in the judicial setup.

'India may be first to hold satellite spectrum auction'

TRAI in discussion with experts, regulators worldwide for suitable model, consultation paper to be floated thereafter, to recommend steps to ease process for govt. permissions, says chief Vaghela

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India will be the first country to auction spectrum for satellite communication (SatCom), and it should be designed to attract investments in the sector, telecom regulator TRAI chairman P.D. Vaghela said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a Broadband India Forum summit on SatCom, Mr. Vaghela said the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) would soon make recommendations to make permissions required for satellite communication

Aiming for the sky

TRAI received reference from DoT for spectrum to be put to auction and associated aspects of satellite communication



- Auction should be designed to attract investments in the sector
- TRAI working on auction model
- Applicants need permission from Ministries of Information, and Broadcasting, Space and Telecom

from various Ministries – Information and Broadcasting, Space and Telecom – seamless to enhance ease of doing business in the sector. He

also said TRAI had received a reference from the Department of Telecommunication for the spectrum required to be put to auction and associated aspects of

satellite-based communication. "I think India will be the first to handle the issue of auctioning the space base spectrum. We are working on it."

TRAI is yet to come up with a consultation paper on the spectrum auction as per the standard process meant for satellite communication.

When asked about the status of the paper, Mr. Vaghela said that TRAI was in discussion with experts and regulators worldwide for a suitable model and the consultation paper would be floated after those discussions are over.

04

'India may be first to hold satellite spectrum auction'

What are spectrum auctions?

- A spectrum auction is a process whereby a government uses an auction system to sell the rights to transmit signals over specific bands of the electromagnetic spectrum and to assign scarce spectrum resources.

Difference between Satellite System and Terrestrial System

- Coverage area of a satellite based system is greater than that of a terrestrial based wireless communication system. A GEO satellite with one single antenna can cover about 1/4th of the earth.
- Satellite communications link will have more degradations compare to terrestrial communication link but quality of transmission is usually quite good.
- In a satellite link delay from earth to satellite to earth is about 240ms while in terrestrial link it will be far less. But transmission cost in a satellite system is independent of the distance within the area of coverage of the satellite antenna, while in terrestrial system it varies based on the distance.
- In a satellite based system satellite EIRP and bandwidth is very vital parameters which need to be carefully designed at the initial stage of both satellite and earth station point of view.
- Very high bandwidths and very high data rates are achievable in a satellite based communication system.

1

The ground equipment transmits signal to the satellite



2

The satellite amplifies the incoming signal and changes the frequency



3

Signal is transmitted back to Earth

4

The ground equipment receives the signal

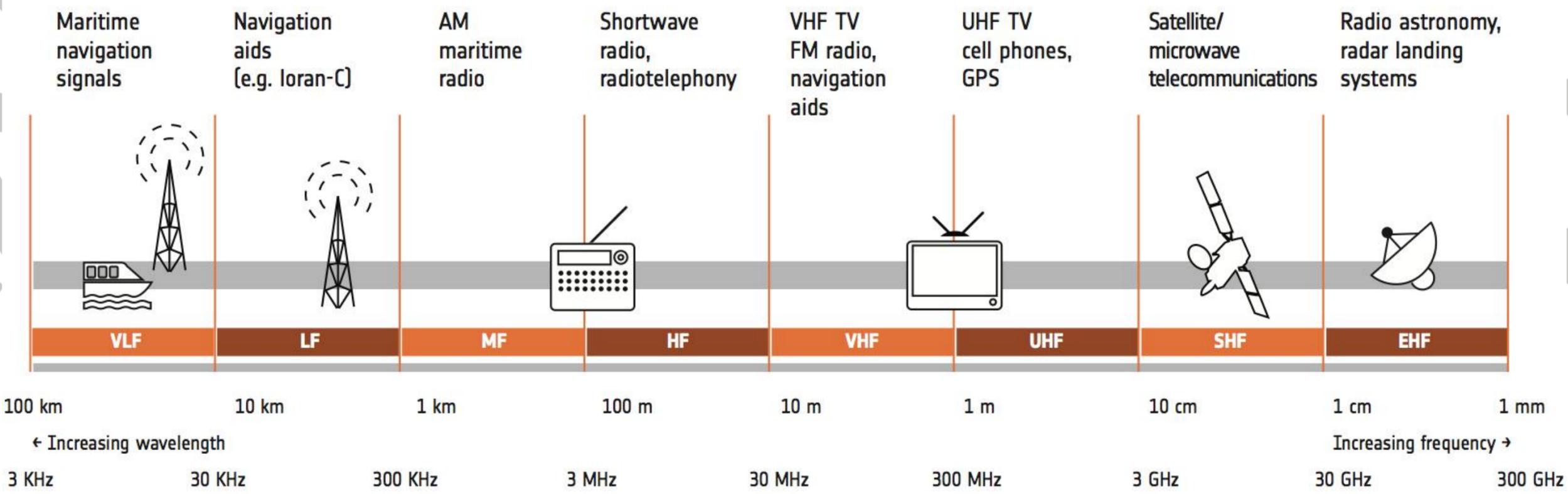


Frequencies

Commercial satellite services primarily use three radio frequency bands:

- **C-band**, which provides lower transmission power over wide geographic areas and generally requires larger ground equipment for reception.
- **Ku-band**, which offers higher transmission power over smaller geographic areas and can be received with smaller ground equipment.
- **Ka-band**, which offers higher transmission power than Ku-band and generally is used for high-bandwidth services such as high-speed internet, video conferencing and multimedia applications.
- **L-band**, which is used for mobile applications, such as maritime and aeronautical communications, employing a variety of ground equipment.

In addition, satellite operators are now developing applications over the Ka-band frequency bands, which will facilitate high transmissions speed and significant information transfer with the use of small ground equipment.



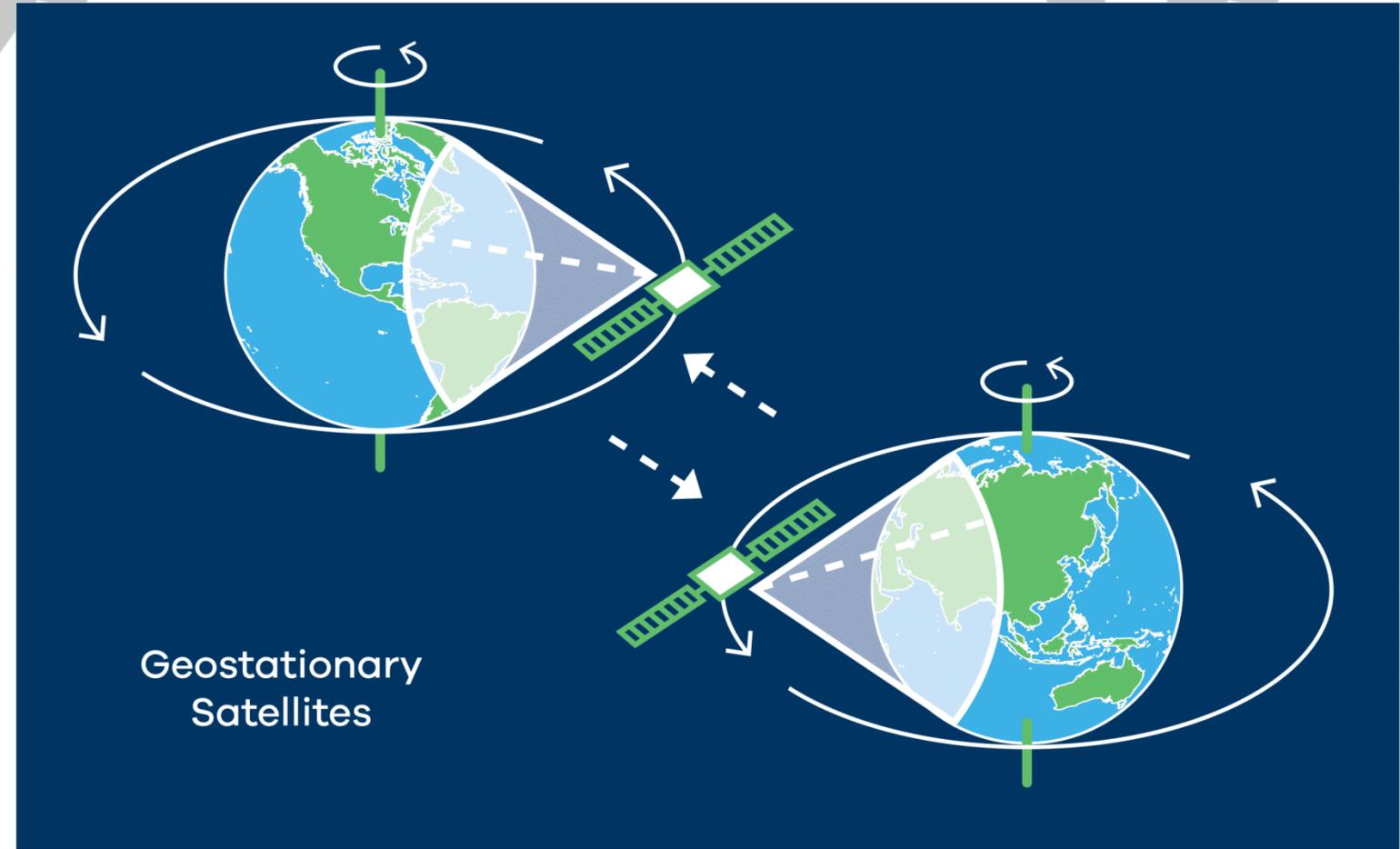
SATELLITE FREQUENCY



- Geostationary Orbit (GEO)
35,786 kilometers above Earth
- Low Earth Orbit
781 kilometers above Earth

LEO
In Motion

GEO
Static



Context:

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) chairman PD Vaghela said that the telecom regulator has also received a reference from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for the spectrum required to be put for auction, and other related aspects of satellite-based communication.

Criticism

- World over, satellite spectrum is authorised for 'a right-to-use' by all administrations everywhere and is allocated only by administrative process at charges essentially covering the cost of administration.
- Unlike terrestrial spectrum, satellite spectrum is never exclusively assigned to the operator, but coordinated internationally and shared among multiple operators for different orbital slots and all types of satellites.
- Thus, the terrestrial concept of exclusivity does not apply and auctioning is not applicable
- The allocation of satellite spectrum should neither happen in a way that creates monopolies in the sector nor in a way that kills the industry
- Countries like US, Thailand and Brazil, which had attempted to auction satellite spectrum, have gone back to the route of administration allocation.

Importance of Satellite communication

- Satellite communication is extremely useful for providing broadband services in remote, hilly, and inaccessible regions.
- It is also the only medium through which communication can be established in disaster zones when normal communication is affected.
- In satellite communications, services are provided through low-earth orbit satellites, through which a box is suspended in remote and hilly regions which creates WiFi spots through which broadband services are provided

QUIZ OF THE DAY

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Democracy Index':

1. It is released by the Economist Intelligence Unit.
2. India has ranked 46th in the Democracy Index 2021.

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

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID).

1. It is a statutory corporate body headquartered in Mumbai.
2. It is mandated to finance infrastructure and developing long term bond and derivatives markets.
3. It is regulated and supervised by the Reserve bank of India under the Banking Regulation Act of 1949.
4. It has been declared as the fifth All India Financial Institution (AIFI).

Choose the CORRECT answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the Above