Science & Technology · GS - III

Discuss the significance of security regulations for satellite internet services in India. How can India balance national security, data sovereignty, privacy and the expansion of digital connectivity?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Satellite Internet, Starlink, Amazon Kuiper, lawful interception, data localisation, domestic gateways, data sovereignty, national security, privacy, digital connectivity, regulatory compliance.

Model Answer

Introduction:

Satellite internet can expand broadband access in remote and underserved regions. However, its cross-border infrastructure and space-based networks create regulatory and security challenges.

Significance of security regulations:

1. **National security:** Lawful interception and monitoring capabilities help authorised agencies investigate threats and enforce the law.
2. **Data sovereignty:** Domestic gateways, traffic-routing controls and data-centre requirements improve regulatory oversight of Indian user traffic.
3. **Operational security:** Monitoring and control of user terminals can help detect unauthorised access and misuse.
4. **Digital connectivity:** Clear and predictable regulations can support investment while enabling satellite broadband expansion.

Challenges:

Excessive compliance burdens may delay services and raise costs. Broad surveillance powers can also create privacy concerns, while technical requirements must account for encryption and evolving satellite technology.

Way Forward:

India should adopt transparent, technology-neutral rules, enforce lawful and proportionate access, protect personal data, establish independent oversight and provide clear compliance timelines.

Conclusion:

A balanced framework should protect national security without undermining privacy, innovation or affordable digital connectivity.

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