

Captive Non-Public Network

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In news- The Ministry of Communications to undertake demand studies for direct assignments of spectrum to Enterprises setting up Captive Non-Public Networks/ also known as private 5G networks.

What are Captive Non-Public Networks(CNPNs)?

- **These networks are typically set up by an enterprise or organisation like factories** for their private use and are not accessible to the general public.
- They can play a key role in developing industries by providing secure, ultra-reliable, low latency and high throughput communication using advanced technologies.

Guidelines for CNPNs license-

- The DoT had issued these guidelines **in** June 2022 with an aim to set up a regulatory framework for CNPNs.
- The guidelines provide that the **enterprises seeking to establish CNPN may obtain spectrum on lease from Telecom Service Providers** or directly from DoT.
- These guidelines also **provide that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will undertake demand studies** for direct assignments of spectrum to Enterprises setting up CNPNs.
- **DoT has now launched a module on Saral Sanchar portal for carrying out the demand studies.**
- **Enterprises having net-worth more than Rs. 100 Crores and willing to set up CNPNs** by obtaining spectrum directly from DoT are invited to participate in this exercise.
- The norms call for enterprises wanting to obtain spectrum directly from the government to take a 10-year renewable licence, for which the government won't charge any licence fee.

- On the scope of the CNPN licence for enterprises, the DoT said such **a licensee may establish indoor or within premise isolated captive non-public network** for own use within the areas of operation of licence.
- The guidelines allow technology companies to de-facto become service providers and compete with Telecom Service Providers(TSPs) in the enterprise connectivity space.