The Regional Standardization Forum

August 8, 2022

In news– As a part of the celebrations during Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, **Ministry of Communicationhas recently hosted the International Telecommunication Union's Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) for Asia and Oceania region.**

About Regional Standardization Forum-

- It is a **platform for constructive exchange of ideas, discussing standardization topics including inter alia India's experience in various sectors of technology like Sustainable Digital Transformation and the Role of ITU Standards,** Harnessing Technologies for Digital and Financial Inclusion in Emerging Markets, evolving Data Value Chain and Digital Health.
- It **aims to provide an insight to for Asia and Oceania Region's experience** from policy and regulatory perspective under various sub-themes.
- **The main objective of the event is to provide an open forum for debating and exchanging views on a number of standardization topics under discussion at ITU-T** and to highlight activities related to the Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG) Programme including the work of Regional Groups.
- Over 250 delegates from 20 countries have participated in Regional Standardization Forum.
- The Forum will be succeeded by four-day meeting of International Telecommunication Union-T Study Group 3 Regional Group Asia and Oceania (ITU-T SG3RG-AO) from 09th August 2022 to 12th August 2022.

About International Telecommunication Union (ITU)-

- ITU is the United Nations **specialized agency for**

information and communication.

- It was **established on 17 May 1865 as the International Telegraph Union,** making it the oldest UN agency.
- Its history contains a number of important 'firsts', such as the standardization of the use of the **Morse code and the world's first radiocommunication** and fixed telecommunication networks.
- ITU's global membership includes 193 Member States as well as some 900 companies, universities, and international and regional organizations.
- Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The ITU was initially aimed at helping connect telegraphic networks between countries, with its mandate consistently broadening with the advent of new communications technologies.
- It adopted its current name in 1934 to reflect its expanded responsibilities over radio and the telephone.
- On 15 November **1947, the ITU entered into an agreement with the newly created United Nations to become a specialized agency within the UN system,** which formally entered into force on 1 January 1949.

- **The ITU is governed by the Plenipotentiary Conference and the Administrative Council.**

- The Plenipotentiary Conference is the supreme organ of the Union and is the decision making body which determines the direction of the Union and its activities.
- The Council, on the other hand, acts as the Union's governing body in the interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences.