



## SPECTRUM ALLOCATION : ECONOMY

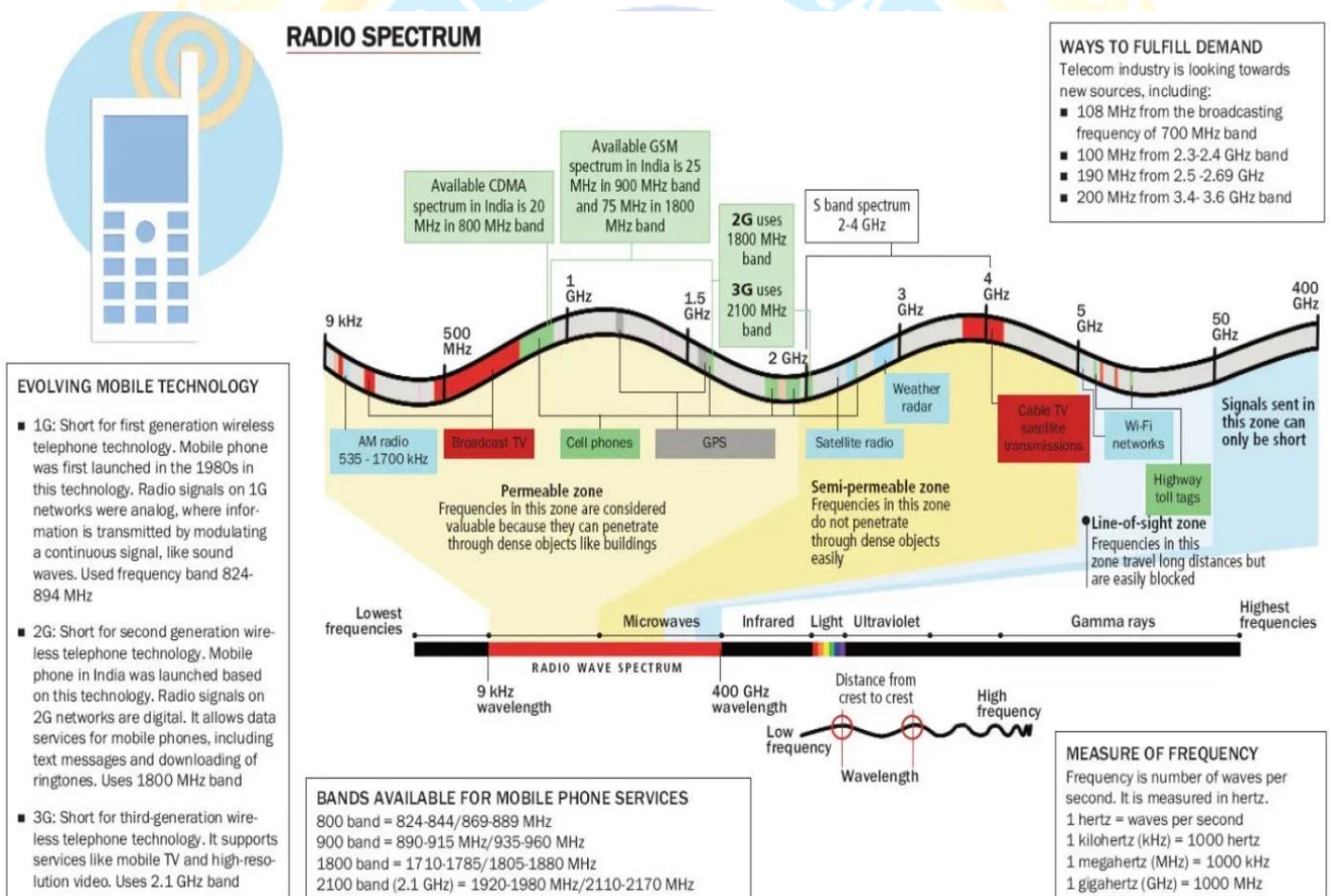
**NEWS :** India Allocates Satellite Communication Spectrum Administratively, Favoring Equity Over Auctions

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS ?

Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently confirmed that spectrum for satellite communication (Satcom) in India will be allocated administratively, not through an auction. This decision counters a proposal from Reliance Jio, advocating auction-based allocation.

### Airwaves/Spectrum:

- Radio frequencies in the electromagnetic spectrum used for communication services like telecommunications.
- Governments allocate and auction spectrum to operators for consumer services.



### Satellite Spectrum:

- Refers to radio frequencies used by satellites to communicate with ground stations, other satellites, and devices on Earth.
- Used for communication, broadcasting, navigation, and Earth observation.



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- Managed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) due to its international nature, meaning it cannot be auctioned by individual countries.

## Legal Framework for Satellite Spectrum:

- Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, satellite spectrum is allocated administratively, not auctioned, aligning with international norms.

## Advantages of Satcom:

- **Wider Coverage:** Reaches remote and rural areas without the need for physical infrastructure.
- **Resilience:** Less vulnerable to damage from natural disasters.

## Growing Satcom Sector:

- India's satcom market is expected to grow from \$2.3 billion to \$20 billion by 2028, with opportunities in rural broadband.

## Auction vs. Allocation Debate:

- Terrestrial spectrum is auctioned and exclusive to specific operators, while satellite spectrum is shared, making administrative allocation more efficient.
- Countries like the US and Brazil have reverted to administrative allocation after experimenting with auctions for satellite spectrum.

**Source :** <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/companies/allocating-satellite-spectrum-jio-vs-starlink-spat-avoid-auctions-9630931/>