

Vodafone Idea Gets Relief on AGR Dues

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Context :

- The Union Cabinet approved freezing the AGR dues of Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL).
- The total dues amount to ₹87,695 crore.
- The freeze will remain for 5 years.

Government Announcement

- AGR dues for FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19 were finalized through the AGR dues Supreme Court judgement 2020.
- VIL will repay these dues between FY 2025-26 and FY 2030-31.
- No change has been made to the original payment structure.

Why the Government Provided Relief?

- The telecom sector is highly concentrated with few players.
- The government wants multiple competitors in this critical sector.
- The government itself holds 49% stake in Vodafone Idea.
- The move protects 20 crore consumers using VIL services.

Impact

- Provides financial relief to Vodafone Idea.
- Helps maintain competition in India's telecom sector.
- Protects millions of consumers and telecom infrastructure.