

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 77/2020)

For Immediate Release

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
releases Recommendations on "Traffic Management Practices (TMPs)
and Multi-Stakeholder Body for Net Neutrality"**

New Delhi, 22.09.2020- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released Recommendations on "Traffic Management Practices (TMPs) and Multi-Stakeholder Body for Net Neutrality", after a multistage consultation process.

2. Earlier, TRAI has sent its recommendations on Net Neutrality to the Government of India on 28th November 2017. It included the Principle of Non-Discriminatory Treatment of Content, Applicability of Non-Discrimination Principle and Exclusions, Reasonable Traffic Management, Transparency and Disclosures, the establishment of a multi-stakeholder body for Monitoring and Enforcement etc. The Government has accepted the recommendations with few variances and sought additional recommendations on the Traffic Management Practices (TMPs) and Multi-Stakeholder Body i.e. *"the necessary Traffic Management Practices (TMPs), and the composition, functions, role, and responsibilities of the multi-stakeholder body for consideration of DoT"*, vide DoT letter dated 31st of July 2018 and DoT letter dated 17th of June 2019.

3. In arriving at these recommendations on 'Traffic Management Practices (TMPs) and Multi-Stakeholder Body for Net Neutrality', TRAI issued a consultation paper on 2nd January 2020 and raised various issues like *preparation of a comprehensive list of reasonable Traffic Management Practices (TMPs), framework and mechanism to prepare and publish such list, composition, functions, role, and responsibilities of the multi-stakeholder body* etc. for comments and counter comments from stakeholders. Subsequently,



an Open House Discussion (OHD) held on 24th June 2020 at Delhi, where stakeholders participated and deliberated on the issues.

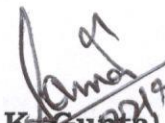
4. The salient features of the recommendations are:

- i. A process for the creation of a repository of reasonable and necessary Traffic Management Practices (TMPs) that the Internet Access Service (IAS) providers may adopt for managing traffic on their networks.
- ii. The DoT may frame a policy for IAS Providers to inform affected users regarding the impact of applied TMPs. The IAS providers may be required to maintain complete and accurate records of instances of application of TMPs for future reference.
- iii. The DoT may establish a Multi Stakeholder Body (MSB) as a non-profit entity under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It may start by registering all licensed service providers (UL, VNO license, UASL, and CMTS licensees) as mandatory members, and further invite and/or nominate other stakeholders to become its members.
- iv. The MSB may comprise all TSPs and ISPs (license holders) and other stakeholders from among the content providers; research, academic and technical community; civil society organisations; consumers; and the government.
- v. The roles of the MSB would be to provide advice and support to DoT regarding monitoring and enforcement of net neutrality principles. The responsibilities of MSB includes to provide support to DoT in creating and maintaining the Repository of TMPs, investigate complaints regarding the violation of net neutrality, submit reports based on monitoring of internet services, investigations of incidents, and review of reports submitted by its members, recommend suitable technical standards and methodologies on matters pertaining to best practices to be adopted for TMPs etc.



vi. The functions of the MSB would be to perform the tasks of compilation and harmonisation of TMPs across all Internet Access Service (IAS) Providers, Maintain and publish the repository of TMPs, periodically review the TMPs listed in Repository of TMPs and reports on the application of TMPs, prepare technical standards and define methodologies in matters pertaining to net neutrality etc.

5. The full text of the recommendation is available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in. In case of any clarification, Shri Asit Kadayan may be contacted at email advqos@trai.gov.in.


(S.K. Gupta)
Secretary