

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 1/2011)

For Immediate release

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TRAI releases consultation paper on “Issues Related to Telecommunications Infrastructure Policy”

New Delhi, 14th January, 2011- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a consultation paper on “Issues Related to Telecommunications Infrastructure Policy”

1. The telecommunication sector is a major contributor towards the national economy. Growth in the number of subscribers in India has been considerable and is expected to reach 1 billion by 2014. Growth in telecom services is supported by a robust telecom infrastructure. Conversely, lack of infrastructure can deal a crippling blow to the aspirations of providing a reliable, high quality, world-class infrastructure to the citizens of the country. It follows that for a comprehensive and inclusive growth of the country a sound infrastructure development policy is indispensable.

2. A pre-consultation paper was issued by the Authority on issues relating to tower infrastructure on 5th February 2010 for obtaining views of the stakeholders. Based on the comments given by the stakeholders and review of earlier recommendations, the scope of consultation paper has been enlarged to cover the entire gamut of telecom infrastructure. There are a number of issues in the domain of telecom infrastructure that remain either unaddressed or the recommendations that have been made by TRAI in the past need reconsideration and review. A consultation paper has been issued today to collectively discuss, debate and finalise measures required.

3. The consultation paper takes up the following important issues for deliberations:
- Telecom infrastructure classification and details with accent on policy issues that need to be consulted upon.
 - Framework relating to Mobile Virtual Network Operators
 - Setting up of National Internet Exchange Points
 - Issues relating to telecom tower infrastructure
 - Issues relating to Rural telephony, migration to IPv6 and IPTV

4. Full text of the Consultation Paper is available on TRAI's website (www.trai.gov.in). Written comments on the issues raised in this consultation paper are invited from the stakeholders by 31st January, 2011 and counter-comments on the comments by 7th February 2011. The comments and counter-comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form, to Mr Lav Gupta, Principal Advisor (TD) on the e-mail address: tdra@traigov.in or tdra.traig@gmail.com. The comments can also be mailed to address given below or faxed to 011-23230056. Comments and counter-comments will be posted on the TRAI's website. For any further clarifications please contact Mr. Lav Gupta, Pr Advisor (TD) on 011-23216930

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