

Information Note to the Press (Press Release No. 13/2017)

For Immediate Release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

New Delhi, the 17th February, 2017: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a Consultation Paper on '**Regulatory Principles of Tariff Assessment**'.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been mandated by the TRAI Act, 1997 to regulate the tariffs offered by the Telecom Service Providers for its various services. The telecommunications sector in India has witnessed a number of changes in the telecom ecosystem consisting of technologies deployed, types of telecom services, market composition, competition, user profile and usage pattern in the last eighteen years since the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 ("TTO") was first notified. As a result, the TTO itself has gone through numerous amendments to account for these developments (Sixty two amendments till February, 2017).

Despite the amendments made to the TTO and other regulations issued by TRAI to factor in various market developments, a need has been felt to undertake a comprehensive review of the TTO framework, albeit in a phased manner, starting with a discussion on the core regulatory principles enshrined in the TTO, Directions and Advisories issued by TRAI on various aspects of the tariff framework from time to time. The consultation is in line with the decision taken in the meeting held with the CEOs of the TSPs on 6th January 2017 to discuss the annual calendar of activities of TRAI for the year 2017, which, *inter-alia*, included developing a new framework for tariffs in evolving telecommunication sector and on which there was a consensus.

The consultation paper deals with emergent issues and challenges, *inter-alia*, related to regulatory principles of tariff assessment e.g. transparency, promotional offers, disclosures and non discrimination, adherence to the principle of non-predatory pricing, meaning of predatory pricing, relevant market, assessment of dominant position etc. The consultation process aims to bring about greater clarity in interpretation of various regulatory principles set out in the TTO in consonance with the best global practices.

The consultation paper on '**Regulatory Principles of Tariff Assessment**' has been uploaded on TRAI's website (www.trai.gov.in). The written comments on the issues raised in the consultation paper are invited from the stakeholders by 17.03.2017 and counter-comments by 24.03.2017. For any clarifications on the afore-said consultation paper, Shri Kaushal Kishore, Advisor (F&EA), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110002. (Tel/Fax: +91-11-23234367, email-id: advfea1@trai.gov.in) may be contacted.


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