

D.O. No. 101-29/2003-MN
January 13, 2005

Dear Shri Mishra,

Subject: Recommendations on Unified Licensing Regime.

TRAI has issued its recommendations on Unified Licensing Regime. A copy of the same along with Press Release is enclosed.

2. The New Telecom Policy 1999 (NTP'99) recognised that convergence of markets and technologies is a reality that is forcing realignment of the industry. At one level, telephone and broadcasting industries are entering each other's markets, while at another level, technology is blurring the difference between different conduit systems such as wireline and wireless and is forcing re-alignment of the industry. In line with NTP'99 and to keep pace with technological and market developments, TRAI considers that Unified Licensing Regime should be introduced in India. This is also in line with the prevalent international practices, which is to move towards simplified Authorisation/Converged licenses. Unified Licensing regime would enable the provision of various services, both existing and new, by the service providers without the need for separate additional licenses, with the same media being used for different services which would build economies of scale and scope. As a result, better services would be made available to the consumers at cheaper price.

3. TRAI in its Unified Licensing recommendations dated 27th October 2003 had envisaged a two-stage process to introduce a Unified Licensing Regime in the country. The first phase that entails a Unified Access Service License (UASL) at circle level has already been implemented. Once the broad framework was decided and put in place, the TRAI began consultation on the implementation of second phase of Unified Licensing Regime. Based on the comments received in the consultation process and its own analysis TRAI has finalised its recommendations of Unified Licensing Regime in India.

4. These recommendations have also been placed on TRAI's website (www.traigov.in).

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Pradip Baijal)

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