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To: "Akhilesh Kumar Trivedi" <advmn@trai.gov.in>

Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 11:32:40 AM

Subject: Response to TRAI's paper on Regulation and Selective Banning of OTT Services

To,
Shri Akhilesh Kumar Trivedi,
Advisor (Networks, Spectrum and Licensing),
TRAI

Dear sir,

I am writing to you to offer our inputs on the consultation paper on 'Regulatory Mechanism for Over-The-Top (OTT) Communication Services, and Selective Banning of OTT Services' on which comments have been invited till September 01, 2023. I am of the opinion that the current definition of OTT services adopted by TRAI, and as an extension, any classification of such services, will be unable to reflect the complexity arisen by the multiple functions performed by a service. Hence, on principle itself, I hold a preliminary view against the licensing and registration of OTT services. I also believe that in addition to a lack of adequate evidence indicating a need for regulatory intervention, lack of a clear statutory basis or reasoning exists for TRAI to take this matter up for consultation. I am also apprehensive of the approach of selective banning of OTT services, given its ad-hoc, ambiguous, and impractical application, and the negative consequences it may have of user choice and freedom.

Kind Regards,

Vignesh