

Information Note to the Press (Press Release No. /2022)

**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

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**ON THE OCCASION OF SILVER JUBILEE OF TRAI, HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES  
NEW MEASURES AND NEW LAUNCHES TO BOOST TELECOM SERVICES AND TO PROMOTE  
REGULATION.**

17<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, New Delhi

On the occasion of silver jubilee celebrations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Hon'ble Prime Minister graced the specially organized function as the Chief Guest. This function was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. While speaking to the gathering Hon'ble Prime Minister has reiterated the need for collaborative regulation by all sectors, while congratulating TRAI on successful completion of 25 years as a Regulator of Telecom and Broadcasting Sectors in the country.

2. This special function was attended by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, Dr. L. Murugan, Hon'ble Minister of State for I&B, many International Regulators, Representatives from International organizations such as UN/ Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT)/ GSMA, industry leaders, senior government officers etc. International participants from regulatory bodies of Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, Turkey and UAE attended the function. Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted the fact that Indian telecom market is second largest in the world with 1.17 billion telecom subscribers and with this huge base, India has presented a model of vibrant growth of the telecom and broadcasting sectors in the country, ably supported by policy and regulatory environment. Prime Minister also appreciated that the telecom sector has been playing a constructive role in the economic development of the country and contributed significantly towards GDP of the country.

3. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established in the year 1997, through an Act of Parliament to regulate Telecom sector and subsequently in the year 2004, the Broadcasting sector was brought under the ambit of TRAI. During the last two decades these sectors have seen a phenomenal growth. When TRAI was formed in the 1997, the telecom market had a little over 14.5 million phone

connections. Which has now grown to 1178.41 million as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. At the end of December 2021, India had 829.30 million Internet subscriber out of which 792.09 million were Broadband subscribers. The Broadcasting and Cable Services Sector, which came under TRAI's purview in 2004, has also witnessed an unprecedented growth. At the end of December 2021, India had a total of 909 private satellite TV channels in addition to the many channels offered by the National Broadcaster 'Doordarshan (DD)'. The number of FM Radio Stations has also grown to 386 excluding channels of All India Radio (AIR). As a Regulator, TRAI has played a stellar role in creating a conducive environment which nurtured a consistent growth. During this special function the Hon'ble Prime Minister also released the following:

- A Postal Stamp
- A souvenir narrating the 25 years of regulatory journey of TRAI
- Release of Short Film on TRAI

4. In the recent years TRAI has made its presence felt through it's proactive role in the world of telecom regulation. The regulatory decisions taken by TRAI are keenly being followed by the regulators of both developed and developing economies and International organizations as well. TRAI is member of all three Sectors (Standardization, Radio communication, Development) of International Telecommunications Union (ITU), which is a United Nations specialized agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). TRAI officers have been consistently contributing in various Study Groups in ITU. TRAI has jointly hosted many training programmes, seminars, workshop in collaboration with ITU. TRAI officers have been invited as speakers in many international events hosted by ITU and other regional Organizations like APT. TRAI has also contributed in a number of international forums such as APT (Asia Pacific Telecommunity), SATRC (South Asian Telecommunications Regulators Council), etc through its meaningful participation.

5. TRAI has been having excellent bi-lateral relations with many international regulators and international organizations. TRAI has signed 20 bi-lateral



agreements with international regulators in the form of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Letter of Intent (LoI). Some of the important agreements include the ones TRAI has signed with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of US and BEREC (Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications). BEREC is a consortium of Regulators of EU (European Union) member states. TRAI has conducted many bi-lateral cooperation activities under the terms and conditions of our Bi-lateral agreements which has resulted in mutual benefits.

6. One of the important highlights of today's meeting was inauguration of Indigenous 5G Test Bed for use by industry and startups at IITM, IITD, IITH, IITK and IISC Bangalore. This project was facilitated by Department of Telecom, Government of India. Hon'ble Prime Minister has inaugurated this in the presence of Minister for Communications, Minister of State for Communications, Secretary, Department of Telecom and senior officers of the department.

7. The function started with ceremonial lighting of the lamp followed by welcome address by Mrs. Meenakshi Gupta, Member, TRAI. Dr P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI took the audience through the 25 years of regulatory journey of TRAI and also commended the contribution of earlier Authority and officers in building TRAI as a professional organisation of high standards. He also mentioned that TRAI will continue to work on important sectoral issues including new technology, technological disruptions etc. and their impact on the telecom and broadcasting sectors; overall economy and society.

8. Today the whole world is celebrating '**World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)**'. Since 1969, 17<sup>th</sup> of May has been celebrated as World Telecom Day annually, marking the founding of ITU and signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. United Nation (UN) has fixed this year's theme as 'Digital Technologies for the Older persons and healthy ageing'. On this special occasion Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary General, International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has sent his greetings and also a congratulatory message for TRAI's Silver Jubilee.

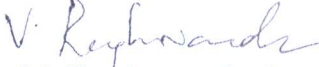


9. Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, Dr. L. Murugan, Hon'ble Minister of State for I&B shared their views on this occasion and spoke about the role of TRAI as a regulator of telecom and broadcasting sectors. The ministers commended the work of TRAI as a regulator and have stated that the recommendations of TRAI have helped the government to take many policy decisions. They also appreciated the good synergy between the policy maker and regulator. The ministers congratulated TRAI for 25 years of service to the nation. Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary (I&B) also shared his thoughts on the occasion and congratulated TRAI for completing 25 years of service to nation.

10. As part of its silver jubilee celebrations, TRAI will be organizing two events tomorrow i. e. 18<sup>th</sup> of May in the form of a Seminar and International Regulators Roundtable. The theme of the Seminar is "Collaborative Regulations: Co-creation and sharing of Infrastructure (in sync with PM Gati-Shakti)" and the theme of the Roundtable is "Collaborative Regulations using RegTech and Technology Platforms". The speakers at these events will represent many organisations which include, International regulators, Senior government officers, technology experts, regulators representing other sectors in the country, TRAI officers etc. The overarching theme for these two events would be 'Collaborative Regulation'.

11. The special Silver Jubilee function ended with the vote of thanks by Mr. V. Raghunandan, Secretary, TRAI who thanked each one present there and all who watched on live streaming for taking out time to be part of the celebrations.

12. For any clarification/information Mrs. Vandana Sethi, Advisor (Admn/IR) may be contacted at Tel.No.+91-11-23664413 or on [advadmn@traigov.in](mailto:advadmn@traigov.in).

  
(V. Raghunandan)  
Secretary, TRAI