

**TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA
EXTRAORDINARY, PART-III, SECTION 4
TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, 23rd December 2024

No. RG-13/1/(1)/2023-ADV_FEA-I — In exercise of the powers conferred upon it under sub-section (2) of section 11, read with sub-clause (i) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of the said section, of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997), the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India hereby makes the following Order further to amend the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999, namely: -

**THE TELECOMMUNICATION TARIFF (SEVENTIETH AMENDMENT) ORDER, 2024
(2 of 2024)**

1. Short title, extent and commencement:

- (1) This Order may be called the Telecommunication Tariff (Seventieth Amendment) Order, 2024.
- (2) This Order shall come into force after thirty days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In clause 2 of the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 –

- (i) in sub-clause (da), for the words “ninety days”, the words “three hundred and sixty-five days” shall be substituted;
- (ii) in sub-clause (ma), for the words “ninety days”, the words “three hundred and sixty-five days” shall be substituted.


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Note.1. – The Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4 under notification No. 99/3 dated 09th March, 1999, and subsequently amended as given below:-

Amendment No.	Notification No. and Date
1st	301-4/99-TRAI (Econ) dated 30.03.1999
2nd	301-4/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 31.05.1999
3rd	301-4/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 31.05.1999
4th	301-4/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 28.07.1999
5th	301-4/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 17.09.1999
6th	301-4/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 30.09.1999
7th	301-8/2000-TRAI(Econ) dated 30.03.2000
8th	301-8/2000-TRAI(Econ) dated 31.07.2000
9th	301-8/2000-TRAI(Econ) dated 28.08.2000
10th	306-1/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 09.11.2000
11th	310-1(5)/TRAI-2000 dated 25.01.2001
12th	301-9/2000-TRAI(Econ) dated 25.01.2001
13th	303-4/TRAI-2001 dated 01.05.2001
14th	306-2/TRAI-2001 dated 24.05.2001
15th	310-1(5)/TRAI-2000 dated 20.07.2001
16th	310-5(17)/2001-TRAI(Econ)dated 14.08.2001
17th	301/2/2002-TRAI(Econ) dated 22.01.2002
18th	303/3/2002-TRAI(Econ) dated 30.01.2002
19th	303/3/2002-TRAI(Econ) dated 28.02.2002
20th	312-7/2001-TRAI(Econ) 14.03.2002
21st	301-6/2002-TRAI(Econ) dated 13.06.2002
22nd	312-5/2002-TRAI(Eco) dated 04.07.2002
23rd	303/8/2002-TRAI(Econ) dated 06.09.2002
24th	306-2/2003-Econ dated 24.01.2003
25th	306-2/2003-Econ dated 12.03.2003
26th	306-2/2003-Econ dated 27.03.2003
27th	303/6/2003-TRAI(Econ) dated 25.04.2003
28th	301-51/2003-Econ dated 05.11.2003
29th	301-56/2003-Econ dated 03.12.2003
30th	301-4/2004(Econ) dated 16.01.2004
31st	301-2/2004-Eco dated 07.07.2004
32nd	301-37/2004-Eco dated 07.10.2004

33rd	301-31/2004-Eco dated 08.12.2004
34th	310-3(1)/2003-Eco dated 11.03.2005
35th	310-3(1)/2003-Eco dated 31.03.2005
36th	312-7/2003-Eco dated 21.04.2005
37th	312-7/2003-Eco dated 02.05.2005
38th	312-7/2003-Eco dated 02.06.2005
39th	310-3(1)/2003-Eco dated 08.09.2005
40th	310-3(1)/2003-Eco dated 16.09.2005
41st	310-3(1)/2003-Eco dated 29.11.2005
42nd	301-34/2005-Eco dated 07.03.2006
43rd	301-2/2006-Eco dated 21.03.2006
44th	301-34/2006-Eco dated 24.01.2007
45th	301-18/2007-Eco dated 05.06.2007
46th	301-36/2007-Eco dated 24.01.2008
47th	301-14/2008-Eco dated 17.03.2008
48th	301-31/2007-Eco dated 01.09.2008
49th	301-25/2009-ER dated 20.11.2009
50th	301-24/2012-ER dated 19.04.2012
51st	301-26/2011-ER dated 20.04.2012
52nd	301-41/2012-F&EA dated 19.09.2012
53rd	301-39/2012-F&EA dated 01.10.2012
54th	301-59/2012-F&EA dated 05.11.2012
55th	301-10/2012-F&EA dated 17.06.2013
56th	301-26/2012-ER dated 26.11.2013
57th	312-2/2013-F&EA dated 14.07.2014
58th	312-2/2013-F&EA dated 01.08.2014
59th	310-5 (2)/2013-F&EA dated 21.11.2014
60th	301-16/2014-F&EA dated 09.04.2015
61st	301-30/2016-F&EA dated 22.11.2016
62nd	301-30/2016-F&EA dated 27.12.2016
63rd	312-1/2017-F&EA dated 16.02.2018
64th	301-20/2018-F&EA dated 24.09.2018
65th	301-03/2020-F&EA dated 03.06.2020
66th	C-3/7/(5)/2021-FEA-I dated 27.01.2022
67th	C-3/7/(5)/2021-FEA-I dated 31.03.2022
68th	C/(5)/2021-FEA-II dated 07.04.2022

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Note 2.– The Explanatory Memorandum explains the objects and reasons for the Telecommunication Tariff (Seventieth Amendment) Order, 2024.



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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

A) Introduction and Background:

1. The Authority had conducted a Consumer Survey between September 2022 to November 2022, in respect of Tariffs of Telecommunication Services and related issues with the objective to understand:
 - the consumer views on evolution of tariffs per se;
 - the efficacy of consumer protection regulations included in the Tariff Order;
 - the efficacy of transparency framework in publishing of tariff offers in advertisement given by the Telecom Service Provider (TSP).
2. Based on feedback from consumers, TSPs, associations, and other stakeholders, TRAI released a consultation paper on July 26, 2024, to review the Telecom Consumer Protection Regulations (TCPR), 2012. The said paper specifically addresses the validity of vouchers, exploring the need to review the current ninety (90) day cap on Special Tariff Vouchers (STV) and Combo Vouchers (CV) and to assess if specific consumer segments might benefit from extended validity for STVs and CVs.

B) Response from the stakeholders:

1. A total of 41 comments and 5 counter-comments were received in response to the consultation paper, representing associations, TSPs, individuals, and consumer groups. These comments are publicly accessible on the TRAI website. An online Open House Discussion (OHD) was held on October 21, 2024, with participation from various stakeholders. Additional feedbacks were also received after the OHD.
2. On the issue of extending the validity of STV and CV, most stakeholders favoured extending the cap beyond the current ninety (90) days. TSPs argued that the ninety (90) day cap is outdated given the evolving telecom landscape, and many agreed that longer validity would save consumers from frequent recharges.

After considering views of stakeholders and the existing provisions that allows data-only packs, the Authority has decided to extend the validity cap for STV and CV from ninety (90) days to three hundred and sixty-five (365) days. The longer duration recharges of up to three hundred and sixty-five (365) days will obviate the need of frequent recharges. However, service providers may offer shorter validity packs, if desired.



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