

Information Note to the Press (Press Release No. 28/ 2024)

For Immediate Release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Clarification regarding Consultation Paper on 'Revision of National Numbering Plan' issued on 06th June 2024

New Delhi, 14th June 2024 – The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a consultation paper on '**Revision of National Numbering Plan**' on **06th June 2024**. Written comments on the aforementioned consultation paper have been invited from the stakeholders by 04th July 2024 and counter comments by 18th July 2024. A press release was also issued on the same day.

2. In this regard, it has come to our attention that some media houses (print, electronic, and social media) have reported that TRAI has proposed introducing fees for mobile and landline numbers with aim to ensure the efficient allocation and use of these 'finite resources'. The speculation that TRAI intends to impose charges on customers for holding multiple SIMs/ numbering resources is unequivocally false. Such claims are unfounded and serve only to mislead the public.

3. DoT being the sole custodian of telecommunication identifiers (TI) resources, had approached TRAI through its reference dated 29 September 2022, seeking recommendations of TRAI on revised National Numbering Plan for undertaking efficient management and judicious utilization of numbering resources in the country. Accordingly, this Consultation Paper (CP) of TRAI on revision of National Numbering Plan (NNP) was issued with an aim to assess all factors currently affecting the allocation and utilization of Telecommunication Identifier (TI) resources. It also aims to propose amendments that would refine allocation policies and utilization procedures, thereby ensuring a sufficient reserve of TI resources for present and future requirements.

4. TRAI's consultation process is founded on principles of transparency and inclusivity, involving the publication of consultation papers, solicitation of stakeholder comments, study/analysis of international best practices associated with the consultation at hand and facilitation of open house discussions—all conducted in the public domain. The final recommendations offered by TRAI to DoT is a fallout of due diligence and deliberate analysis and is mostly in consonance with logical conclusions inferred out of aforesaid activities.

5. TRAI has consistently been advocative of minimum regulatory intervention promoting forbearance and the self-regulation of market forces. We unequivocally repudiate and emphatically condemn any spurious conjectures that perpetuate the circulation of such misleading information concerning the consultation paper at hand.

6. We urge all stakeholders and the general public to refer to official press release and consultation paper issued by TRAI through its website (<https://trai.gov.in/notifications/press-release/trai-issues-consultation-paper-revision-national-numbering-plan>) for accurate information. The Authority remains committed to fostering an environment of clarity and factual integrity.

7. For any further clarification/information, Shri Abdul Kayum, Advisor (BB & PA) at TRAI may be contacted at advbbpa@trai.gov.in.

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14/6/2024
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