For Immediate release

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

TRAI releases Inputs for Formulation of National Telecom Policy - 2018

New Delhi, 2nd February, 2018- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released "Inputs for Formulation of National Telecom Policy-2018".

2.   The Department of Telecommunications, through its letter dated 21.08.2017, requested TRAI to suggest its policy inputs for formulation of National Telecom Policy – 2018 (NTP-2018). Upon receiving the Government's request, TRAI prepared an initial draft consisting of a range of issues proposed to be addressed in NTP-2018 and shared the same with stakeholders for preliminary discussions. Based on preliminary discussions with various stakeholders including telecom service providers, telecom equipment manufacturers, industry associations, consulting firms, cloud service providers etc.; the Authority prepared draft inputs for formulating the NTP-2018 and issued a Consultation Paper on 3rd January 2018 to seek views of stakeholders. All the comments received from stakeholders have been posted on TRAI's website.

3.   The Authority, after carefully examining various issues emanating from the written submissions of the stakeholders, discussions during Open House Discussions and inputs received from eminent personalities, has finalized its inputs for formulation the National Telecom Policy-2018.

4.   The digital communication has presented India an opportunity to overcome the impediments posed by deficiencies in its brick and mortar based physical infrastructure and opened doors to new paradigms in all sectors of economy whereby the common man at the bottom of the pyramid is being served much more efficiently and at a fraction of cost as compared to

earlier days. For these reasons, this policy affects the outcomes of several sectors and should be looked in at from a much wider perspective. Accordingly, the Authority has suggested that National Telecom Policy-2018 should be titled as "the Information and Communication Technologies Technology Policy - 2018".

5. The Authority has recommended the following Vision, Mission and Objectives for NTP - 2018:

Vision

To develop a competitive, sustainable, and investor-friendly Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) market for rollout of state-of-the-art ubiquitous digital communication infrastructure to provide resilient, reliable, affordable, and consumer friendly products and services to meet local as well as global needs; and in the process, transform India's knowledge economy, support inclusive development, foster innovation, and stimulate job creation.

Mission:

1. To fulfil the information and communication needs of the individuals including persons with disabilities, governments, enterprises, and industries with high quality of experience at affordable prices on a sustainable basis;

2. To facilitate growth of state-of-the-art, secure, and energy-efficient digital communication infrastructure for delivering ubiquitous, resilient, reliable and ultra-high speed connectivity with extremely low latency for objects, machines, and devices;

3. To stimulate the environment for innovation and entrepreneurial opportunities making India a global centre for research and development, patent-creation, and standardization in Information and Communication Technologies and services;

4. To develop indigenous technologies, equipments, platforms, and applications ecosystem for providing digital services to local and global markets;

5. To establish India as a global hub for cloud computing, content hosting and delivery, and data communication systems and services in a net-neutral environment;

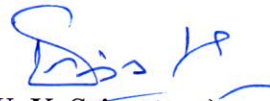6. To protect consumers' interests by increasing awareness and putting in place an effective

grievance redressal mechanism, improving quality of experience, ensuring network, communication and data security, encouraging adoption of environment and safety standards for ICT, and modernizing public safety and emergency communications networks;

7. To attract investments by enhancing ease of doing business through simplification of licensing and regulatory frameworks, rationalization of taxes, levies and related compliances, and facilitating availability of resources including spectrum.

Objectives:

1. To enable access at affordable prices for wireless broadband services, including through satellite to 90% population by 2022;

2. To ensure availability of bandwidth on demand through wireline, including cable TV and optical fibre networks to 30% households by 2020 and 50% households by 2022;

3. To provide at least 1 Gbps data connectivity to all Gram Panchayats to enable wireless broadband services to inhabitants by 2022;

4. To achieve 900 million broadband subscriptions supporting download speed of 2 Mbps, out of that at-least 150 million broadband subscriptions supporting download speed of 20 Mbps and 25 million at a download speed of 50 Mbps by 2022;

5. To achieve 'unique mobile subscriber density' of 55 by 2020 and 65 by 2022 by enhancing mobile network coverage to 95% of inhabitants by 2020 and 100% by 2022;

6. To deploy 2 million public WLAN including Wi-Fi hotspots in the country by 2020 and 5 million by 2022;

7. To leapfrog India into the top-50 nations in the ICT Development Index (IDI), released by ITU every year, by 2022;

8. To enable access for connecting to 1 billion IoT/ M2M sensors/ devices by 2020 and 5 billion by 2022;

9. To attract an investment equivalent to USD 60 billion in communication sector by 2020 and USD 100 billion by 2022;

10. To become net positive in international trade of communication systems and services by 2022;

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11. To create 2 million additional jobs in ICT sector by 2022;

12. To put in place an ombudsman based consumer grievance redressal mechanism by end of 2018;

13. To establish online centralised platform for provision of Right of Way (RoW) permissions for single window clearance by 2019;

14. To achieve backhaul connectivity on optical fibre for at least 60% base stations by 2022;

15. To put in place an online platform for all Government to Business (G2B) activities including spectrum and license related information, applications, clearances, compliances, and payments by 2019;

16. To simplify licensing and regulatory frameworks, and rationalize taxes, levies and related compliances by 2019;

17. To put in place a flexible, robust data protection regime powered by a strong encryption policy by 2019;

18. To establish a policy framework for facilitating setting up of data centres by 2019.

6.   For, each objective, the number of strategies have been recommended, the details of which are available on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in.

7.   For any clarification/ information, Mr. S. K. Singhal, Advisor, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, may be contacted at Tel. No.: +91-11-23221509, Fax: +91-11-23220442.

(U. K. Srivastava)
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