

**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

**February 06, 2007**

**Press Release No. 20/2007**

**Subject: TRAI conducts a round table meeting on digitalization of television transmission and voluntary implementation of CAS.**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had sent its recommendations on digitalization of cable television to Government of India in September, 2005. Recently, the process of digitalization received a boost with the successful implementation of conditional access system (CAS) from 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2006, in parts of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. CAS has already been implemented in Chennai in 2003

2. In order to take the process of digitalization forward and also to explore the possibility of voluntary implementation of CAS in other parts of the country, TRAI conducted a round table meeting on 1st February 2007, at Delhi with various stake holders. Experts as well as representatives of consumer organizations, multi system operators (MSOs), cable operators, DTH operators, broadcasters and equipment manufacturers participated in the round table. In the meeting there was a broad consensus about the need for digitalization and addressability. The participants raised certain issues in order to arrive at a feasible road map. The major issues that were raised by the stakeholders relates to fiscal rationalization, encouragement of domestic manufacturing, changes in the regulatory regime specially the need for price control, ensuring affordability and choice and exploring alternative models for voluntary CAS.

3. A small sub group has been constituted in order to discuss issues relating to digitalization and voluntary introduction of CAS. The discussions with the stake holders would continue in future also.

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