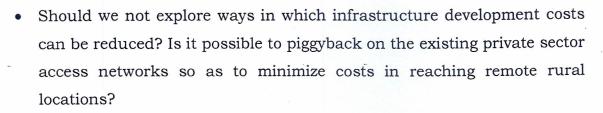<u>For Immediate Release</u>

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI issues Consultation Paper on "Delivering Broadband Quickly: What do we need to do?"

New Delhi, 24.09.2014 – The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today issued a Consultation Paper on **"Delivering Broadband Quickly: What do we need to do?"**

1.   Affordable broadband connectivity, services and applications are essential to modern society, offering widely recognised social and economic benefits.   Nowhere is the impact of broadband more important and critical than in the developing countries. Growing evidence suggests that broadband can boost GDP, jobs and income, helping to combat poverty and hunger. While India has a broadband policy in place since the year 2004 and the Government has taken a number of initiatives to increase the penetration of broadband in the country, the performance is still dismal, compared to most other countries in the world.   In this backdrop, the Authority has come out with this Consultation Paper (CP) to discuss issues contributing to poor broadband penetration in India and to solicit stakeholders' views on actions required to be taken both by the Government and the private sector to accelerate the proliferation and use of broadband in the country.

2.   The CP raises the following main implementation and policy issues:

- Are PSUs ideal choices for implementing the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project?
- Should awarding of EPC turnkey contracts to private sector parties through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) be considered for the NOFN project?

- Should we not explore ways in which infrastructure development costs can be reduced? Is it possible to piggyback on the existing private sector access networks so as to minimize costs in reaching remote rural locations?
- What can the private sector do to reduce delivery costs?
- What are the major issues in obtaining Right of Way (RoW) for laying optical fibre?
- What are the impediments to the provision of Broadband by Cable operators?
- What measures (including policy changes) are required to be taken for promoting broadband through the cable network?
- What measures are required to reduce the cost and create a proper eco system for deployment of FTTH in the access network?
- What are the reasons that installation of Wi-Fi hotspots has not picked up in the country?
- What is the quantum of spectrum required to meet the target of broadband penetration?
- How do we identify spectrum bands for provision of wireless broadband services?
- What are the measures required to encourage Government agencies to surrender spectrum occupied by them in IMT bands?
- What should be the time frame for auctioning the spectrum in 700 MHz band?

3.   Copy of the full text of the CP is available on TRAI website: www.trai.gov.in. For any clarification/ information Shri Arvind Kumar, Advisor (NSL), TRAI may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-23220209 Fax No. +91-11-23230056.

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