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From: Sumit Singh <thakursumitsingh007@gmail.com>

To: <advmn@tra.gov.in>

Date: Fri, 10 Apr 2026 07:15:44 +0530

Subject: Comments on Consultation Paper on Framework for Satellite Communication in India (Dated 08/04/2026)

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To,
The Advisor (MN),
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
Subject: Representation from a Common Citizen regarding Spectrum Allocation for Satellite Communication.

Respected Sir/Madam,

With reference to the Consultation Paper (CP No. 08/2026) regarding the framework for Satellite Communication, I would like to submit my thoughts focusing on the challenges faced by the rural and economically weaker sections of India.

While Satcom (Satellite Communication) is a leap toward modern technology, it must not leave the "Common Man" behind. I urge TRAI to consider the following points in the final framework:

1. Inclusion of Feature Phone Users (Direct-to-Cell Technology)

A vast majority of the rural population still relies on basic feature phones. They lack the digital literacy and hardware required for high-end internet services.

Request: TRAI should incentivize satellite technologies (like Direct-to-Device/D2D) that can send Emergency Alerts, SMS, and Basic Voice Signals directly to existing feature phones without requiring expensive satellite terminals or new smartphones.

Goal: To ensure that a citizen in a "No-Network Zone" can still receive Government DBT alerts or call for help during a disaster.

2. Affordability and 'Service for All' (Tackling Costly Recharges)

Rising mobile tariffs have made even basic connectivity a financial burden for low-income citizens, depriving them of essential government and personal services.

Request: The spectrum assignment conditions should mandate that satellite operators provide a "Social Connectivity Tier." This should be a low-cost, subsidized plan specifically for rural/remote areas, ensuring that the cost of Satcom does not become an elite-only service.

Zero-Rating for Essential Services: Access to essential government portals (Health, Education, Agriculture) via satellite links should be made Free of Data Costs for the user.

3. Spectrum for Social Impact, not just Revenue

If spectrum is distributed solely based on the highest bid (Auction), the cost will inevitably be passed on to the consumer.

Request: For rural and remote area connectivity, TRAI should consider an Administrative Allocation or a "Service-Linked" Spectrum Model. In this, companies are given spectrum at a lower cost if they guarantee 100% coverage in "Shadow Zones" (remote villages) at affordable rates.

4. Bridging the Digital Literacy Gap

Satellite network operators should be mandated to contribute to a "Digital Literacy Fund" or utilize the USOF (Universal Service Obligation Fund) to educate rural users on how to use satellite-based emergency and banking services.

Conclusion:

Spectrum is a public resource. Its distribution should be judged not just by the revenue it generates for the exchequer, but by how many "unconnected" citizens it finally connects to the mainstream.

I hope these views representing the common citizen's perspective will be given due consideration.

Sincerely,

Sumit
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