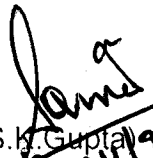


Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 69/2020)
For Immediate Release

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
releases Recommendations on
"Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top (OTT) communication services"**

New Delhi, 14.09.2020, The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released Recommendations on "**Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top (OTT) Communication Services**", after a multistage consultation process.

2. Earlier, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) vide letter No.12-30/NT/2015/OTT(Pt) dated 3.3.2016 sought the recommendations of TRAI on net neutrality including traffic management and economic, security and privacy aspects of OTT services, apart from other relevant standpoints as covered in the consultation paper dated 27.3.2015.
3. Considering the complexity of issues, referred to in the DoT's letter, and other interrelated issues, the Authority decided to deal with specific issues through distinct consultation processes. The Authority has already issued recommendations or regulations pertaining to 'Prohibition of Discriminatory Tariffs for Data Services', 'Regulatory framework for Internet Telephony', 'Net Neutrality' and 'Privacy, Security and Ownership of Data in the Telecom Sector'.
4. In arriving at these recommendations on the residual issue i.e. 'Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top (OTT) communication services', TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on 12th November 2018 and raised various issues like Similarity and Substitutability of TSP and OTT services, Regulatory Imbalance and Non-Level playing field between TSPs and OTT service providers, Economic aspects, Interoperability, Lawful Interception of OTT services and Access of emergency services from OTT etc. for comments and counter comments from stakeholders. Subsequently, two Open House Discussions (OHD's) were held one at Bangalore on 24th April 2019 and another one at Delhi 20th May 2019, where stakeholders participated and deliberated on the issues.
5. The salient features of the recommendations are:
 - (i) Market forces may be allowed to respond to the situation without prescribing any regulatory intervention. However, developments shall be monitored and intervention as felt necessary shall be done at appropriate time.
 - (ii) No regulatory interventions are required in respect of issues related with Privacy and security of OTT services at the moment.
 - (iii) It is not an opportune moment to recommend a comprehensive regulatory framework for various aspects of services referred to as OTT services, beyond the extant laws and regulations prescribed presently. It may be looked into afresh when more clarity emerges in international jurisdictions particularly the study undertaken by ITU.
6. The full text of the recommendation is available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in In case of any clarification, Shri Asit Kadayan may be contacted at email advqos@trai.gov.in.


(S. J. Gupta)
Secretary, TRAI
14/09/2020