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**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

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**TRAI releases Status Paper on 'Broadband Speed'.**

New Delhi, 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2008. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has released a Status Paper on 'Broadband Speed" today. High speed Internet is commonly known as broadband worldwide. The minimum prescribed speed for a broadband connection has been defined by various countries and International organizations differently according to the parameters being considered while finalizing such benchmarks. There is no uniform benchmark for broadband speed being followed universally.

As per Broadband Policy 2004 announced by the Government of India, the broadband connection has been defined as an 'always-on' Internet access with a minimum speed of 256 Kbps from the Internet Service Provider's (ISP) Node to the customer premises equipment (CPE). Incidences have come to the notice of TRAI where service providers are using words like "up to" to define broadband speed without indicating minimum committed speed of the packages. In certain cases packages of Internet speed less than 256 Kbps have also been marketed as broadband connections. TRAI has already written to all the service providers not to use words like "up to" and unambiguously indicate minimum committed speed of the plan which must be atleast 256 Kbps in case of broadband. Service providers have also been asked to bring to

the notice of subscribers the definition of the broadband while offering high speed Internet connections. While efforts are being made to ensure minimum 256 Kbps speed for broadband connections, some stake holders have also suggested for raising the minimum speed of broadband connections. The speed of the broadband is generally defined to indicate average speed which can support different applications. Broadband speed is a relative concept and bandwidth requirements are different for different applications. Broadband speed is related both to the availability of the network access infrastructure as well as to availability of appropriate content which requires such high Internet speeds.

The Authority is of the view that there is a need to highlight the status of the speed of the broadband and accordingly this paper has been prepared. The status paper has analysed broadband speed as defined in various countries, the prevailing environment and impact of growth of broadband on the economy of the country. The paper also analyses the present broadband infrastructure existing in the country and implications of redefining broadband speed. The International experiences in this regard have also been compiled. It is expected that this status paper would clarify the issues and will help appreciating the definition of broadband particularly in relation to its speed.

All the stakeholders are requested to forward their comments on the Status Paper. The full version of the status paper is available on TRAI website ([www.traigov.in](http://www.traigov.in)).

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