



सत्यमेव जयते

राजीव अग्रवाल, भा.दू.से.

RAJEEV AGRAWAL, I.T.S.

सचिव/Secretary

## भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण

महानगर दूरसंचार भवन, जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग,  
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TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Dear *shri Farooqui,*

DoT through its letter No. 59-01/2013-SU-IV dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013 on the subject 'Augmentation/Revamping of Telecom Services in North Eastern States including the State of Sikkim-Study regarding gap and investment required for formulation of a telecom plan' had requested TRAI to provide its recommendations under section 11(1)(a)(iv) of the TRAI Act on a comprehensive Telecom Plan for the North East Region(NER) States after making a gap analysis and investment required for implementing the same.

2. To understand the present status of telecom infrastructure and the gaps thereof, TRAI carried out detailed consultations with various stakeholders. Meetings were held with Universal Service Obligation Fund Administrator (USOFA), Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT), National Informatics Center (NIC), Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), Railtel Corporation of India (Railtel), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and with TSPs operating in the NER. Meetings were organized with the TSPs who are providing services in NER states wherein they raised several problems faced by them in rolling out their services in the region.

3. In this context, TRAI also deputed four teams of senior officers to meet the Chief Ministers and top-level State Government Officers of some of the NER states with the mandate to understand their concerns regarding the telecom infrastructure in these States. The State Governments were also requested to spell out their priorities so that these can be incorporated in the proposed investment plan. The State Governments were also apprised of the challenges that the TSPs were facing in rolling out their network in the NER.

4. Based on inputs received from the stakeholders in various meetings, the concerns raised by the State Governments during the visit of the officers of TRAI, and its in-house analysis, the Authority has today finalised its recommendations on "Improving Telecom Services in the North Eastern States: An Investment Plan" dated 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The recommendations are enclosed herewith.

*[Signature]*  
26/9/13

5. In the recommendations, the Authority has examined the gap in the NER with respect to telecom services in four categories viz. (a) enhancing bandwidth availability and building redundancy in transmission media; (b) making available voice service (2G) to hitherto uncovered villages; (c) providing data services (3G) in all urban areas; and, (d) covering the uncovered National Highways. While making these recommendations, the Authority has consciously tried to propose cost-effective and "closed-loop" solutions, the implementation of which are not dependent on other projects or action taken by other agencies. Three of the four components of the investment plan are, in a sense, standalone projects viz. they are self-contained and not dependent on the actions of another party. However, 2G coverage in uncovered villages will depend on the ongoing projects of USOF and BBNL.

6. The overall investment required for covering the telecom infrastructure gap in the NER States has been recommended to be approximately **Rs.2918** crores.

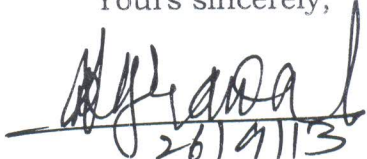
7. The success of the investment plan to provide universal, ubiquitous and state-of-the-art facilities in the NER hinges on cooperation from other agencies including State Governments, WPC, Highway Authorities, PSUs etc. The Authority anticipates that all these agencies will work in a coherent manner to ensure enduring success of the investments being proposed.

8. In keeping with practice, a copy of this letter, along with the recommendations, is being placed on the website of TRAI [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in)

This letter issues with the approval of the Authority.

*with best regards,*

Yours sincerely,

  
26/9/13  
(Rajeev Agrawal)

Encl: as above.

**Shri M. F. Farooqui**

Secretary

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