

- (च) यह प्राधिकरण गैर-अनन्य आधार पर प्रदान किया जा रहा है। भविष्य में समय-समय पर, समान सेवा क्षेत्र में समान या अन्य प्रकार की दूरसंचार सेवाओं के लिए, समान या भिन्न प्रवेश शर्तों वाली प्राधिकृत इकाइयों की संख्या पर कोई प्रतिबंध लगाए बिना, अतिरिक्त प्राधिकरण जारी किए जा सकते हैं।
- (छ) यह प्राधिकरण स्पेक्ट्रम के आवंटन का कोई अधिकार नहीं देता है। प्राधिकृत दूरसंचार सेवाओं के प्रावधान हेतु स्पेक्ट्रम के उपयोग के लिए दूरसंचार अधिनियम, 2023 की धारा 4 के अंतर्गत अधिसूचित नियमों के अनुसार, केंद्रीय सरकार से एक अलग विनिर्दिष्ट फ्रीक्वेंसी आवंटन की आवश्यकता होगी।
- (ज) प्राधिकरण की वैधता अवधि के दौरान किसी भी स्तर पर किसी प्राधिकृत इकाई द्वारा कोई गलत विवरण या गलत अभ्यावेदन पाए जाने पर प्राधिकरण को रद्द किया जा सकता है या केंद्रीय सरकार द्वारा उचित पाया गया कोई अन्य जुर्माना लगाया जा सकता है।

तारीख:

केंद्रीय सरकार के प्रतिनिधि का नाम और हस्ताक्षर

(भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से)

सेवा में,

(इकाई का नाम और पता)

[फा. सं. 24-07/2025-यूबीवी]

देवेन्द्र कुमार राय, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(Department of Telecommunications)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 5th September, 2025

G.S.R. 606(E).—The following draft rules, which the Central Government proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of sub section (1) of section 3 read with clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 56 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 (44 of 2023) are hereby published for the information of all persons likely to be affected thereby and notice is hereby given that the said draft rules shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of thirty days from the date on which copies of this notification as published in the Official Gazette, are made available to the public,

Objections or suggestions, if any, may be addressed to the Joint Secretary (Telecom), Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 110001,

The objections or suggestions which may be received from any person with respect to the said draft rules before the expiry of the aforesaid period shall be taken into consideration by the Central Government.

CHAPTER 1: PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement

- (1) These rules may be called the Telecommunications (Authorisation for Provision of Main Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2025.
- (2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
- (3) These rules shall not override the terms and conditions of actions taken under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885), including issuance of licenses, registrations or permissions, by whatever name called, undertaken pursuant to the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885), which shall continue in accordance with sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Act.

2. Definitions

- (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,
- (a) “access service” means the telecommunication service provided by an authorised entity to users for conveyance of voice or non-voice messages through wireline or wireless telecommunication network, and the words “wireline access service” and “wireless access service” shall be construed accordingly;

- (b) “access spectrum” means the spectrum assigned to an authorised entity for conveyance of voice or non-voice messages between user terminal (UT) and base station;
- (c) “Act” means the Telecommunications Act, 2023 (44 of 2023);
- (d) “authorisation fee” means a fee payable by an authorised entity at rates and intervals for the duration of the authorisation as specified in these rules;
- (e) “authorised agency” means: (i) for interception of messages, the authorised agency as defined under Telecommunications (Procedures and Safeguards for Lawful Interception of Messages) Rules, 2024; and (ii) for any other purpose, the agency designated by the Central Government;
- (f) “base station” means a fixed radio transmitter and receiver station, which provides a link between the user terminal and core telecommunication network;
- (g) “bearer service” means a telecommunication service that allows transmission of message between network interfaces, that provide users the capacity required to transmit messages between certain access points referred to as user network interfaces and the phrase “bearer telecommunication traffic” shall be construed accordingly;
- (h) “broadcasting services” means the dissemination of any programme(s) through terrestrial or satellite communication medium or a combination of both, intended to be received by users either directly or indirectly, and all its grammatical variations and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly;
- (i) “cable landing station” or “CLS” means the station where fibers of the international or domestic submarine cable gets terminated and it houses the Submarine Line Terminating Equipment (SLTE) and Power Feeding Equipment (PFE);
- (j) “cable landing station-point of presence” or “CLS-PoP” means a type of CLS, where some fiber pairs of the submarine cable extended from the CLS are terminated and it houses SLTE;
- (k) “call” means a connection established by means of telecommunication that enables voice communication;
- (l) “calling line identification” or “CLI” means the identity of the calling or originating user in terms of the telecommunication identifier assigned or any other identification as may be specified by the Central Government from time to time;
- (m) “captive non-public network” or “CNPN” means a terrestrial wireless telecommunication network established for captive use within a specified geographical area, which cannot be used for providing commercial or public telecommunication services to users.
- (n) “captive telecommunication services” means captive telecommunication services as identified and authorised under the Telecommunications (Authorisation For Provision of Captive Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2025;
- (o) “Chief Telecommunication Security Officer” means the Chief Telecommunication Security Officer appointed under rule 6 of the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024;
- (p) “cloud-hosted telecommunication network” or “CTN” shall have the same meaning as provided in the Telecommunications (Authorisation for Telecommunication Network) Rules, 2025.
- (q) “cloud-hosted telecommunication network (CTN) provider” shall have the same meaning as provided in the Telecommunications (Authorisation for Telecommunication Network) Rules, 2025.
- (r) “Companies Act” means the Companies Act, 1956 or the Companies Act, 2013, as the case may be;
- (s) “control” includes the right to appoint majority of the directors or to control the management or policy decisions exercisable by a person or persons acting individually or in concert, directly or indirectly, including by virtue of their shareholding or management rights or shareholders agreements or voting agreements or in any other manner:
Provided that a director or officer of an authorised entity shall not be considered to have control over an authorised entity merely by virtue of holding such position;
- (t) “core telecommunication network” means a system or series of systems of telecommunication equipment that is responsible for routing and controlling flow of telecommunication traffic among different parts of the telecommunication network and handles a range of essential functions including connectivity, routing, mobility management, authentication, authorisation, user management, policy management, management of exposure of the telecommunication network and servicing of Application Program Interfaces (APIs).

- (u) “critical telecommunication infrastructure” means any telecommunication network, or part thereof, notified under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Act;
- (v) “Customer Application Form” or “CAF” means the form as may be specified by the Central Government, for recording the user information for the purpose of providing telecommunication services;
- (w) “domain name” means the address of a computer, organization, or entity on a TCP/IP network such as Internet;
- (x) “domestic leased circuit” means a leased circuit within the boundaries of the national service area;
- (y) “earth station in motion” or “ESIM” means a Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) user terminal of satellite system, installed on a moving platform like ship, aircraft or land vehicle, while in motion or on pause and connected with satellite, essentially providing access to telecommunication service;
- (z) “effective date” means the date as specified in the authorisation as being the effective date of the authorisation;
- (aa) “emergency response services” means telecommunication services to address emergencies of any kind, including major accidents, natural or man-made disasters and incidents involving toxic or radio-active materials, or any other emergency declared by the Central Government or State Government from time to time;
- (bb) “emergency services” means the relevant public, police, fire, ambulance, coast guard or any other services so declared by the Central Government;
- (cc) “entry fee” means non-refundable amount of fee to be paid for grant of authorisation to provide telecommunication services in a service area of authorisation;
- (dd) “exclusive economic zone” means the area identified under section 7 of the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone And Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976;
- (ee) “force majeure event” means any cause or event, other than the unavailability of funds, which causes non-performance or delay in performance by the authorised entity claiming to be affected by such event, which are:
 - (i) beyond the reasonable control of, and could not have been anticipated or foreseeable by such entity, and not brought about at the instance of such entity, or
 - (ii) which, if anticipated or foreseeable, could not have been avoided by such entity.

Illustrative list of “force majeure events” includes natural phenomena or calamities or any act of God , earthquakes, typhoons, floods, fires, explosions, wars declared or undeclared, hostilities, invasions, blockades, acts of public enemy, sabotage, riots, strikes, insurrection, civil disturbances, Act of State or direction from Statutory Authority, quarantine restriction, strikes and lockouts (as are not limited to the establishments and facilities of the authorised entity).
- (ff) “foreign direct investment” or “FDI” means foreign direct investment as defined under paragraph (r) of rule 2 of the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instrument) Rules, 2019;
- (gg) “form” means a form specified by the Central Government from time to time;
- (hh) “global mobile personal communications by satellite (GMPCS) system” means any satellite system which is fixed or mobile, broad-band or narrow-band, global or regional, geo-stationary or non-geo-stationary, existing or planned providing telecommunication services directly to end users from a single or constellation of satellites, and the phrase ‘GMPCS network’ and ‘GMPCS service’ shall be construed accordingly;
- (ii) “home network” means the telecommunication network established by an authorised entity in its service area of authorisation;
- (jj) “IN-SPACe” means the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Center, which is the autonomous agency within the Department of Space that regulates space sector activities of non-government entities;
- (kk) “inter-circle traffic” means the telecommunication traffic originating in one Telecom Circle or Metro service area and terminating in another Telecom Circle or Metro service area;
- (ll) “interconnection” means the commercial and technical arrangements under which authorised entities or licensees, as the case may be, connect their telecommunication equipment, telecommunication network

and telecommunication services to enable their users to have access to users, telecommunication services and telecommunication networks of other authorised entities or licensees;

- (mm) “international long distance (ILD) network” means a type of telecommunications network for interconnecting with telecommunication networks of foreign carriers;
- (nn) “international long distance (ILD) service” means a type of telecommunication service provisioned over the ILD network;
- (oo) “international private leased circuit (IPLC)” means an international leased circuit connecting a user in India and a user outside India;
- (pp) “internet” is a global system that:
 - (a) is logically linked together by a globally unique address, based on Internet Protocol (IP) or its subsequent enhancements or upgradations; and
 - (b) is able to support communications using the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) suite or its subsequent enhancements/upgradations, and all other IP compatible protocols;
- (qq) “internet exchange point” or “IXP” means a telecommunication equipment at a physical location containing ethernet switches where multiple telecommunication networks connect to exchange internet traffic;
- (rr) “internet exchange point (IXP) service” means a telecommunication service provided using IXP;
- (ss) “internet leased line” or “ILL” means any dedicated link, on wireline or wireless media, from a port on Internet node to user premises and having un-contended capacity;
- (tt) “Internet of Things” or “IoT” means M2M communications over the internet;
- (uu) “internet service” is a type of telecommunication service accessing the internet;
- (vv) “internet telephony” means transfer of message(s) including voice signal(s) through internet and internet telephony network shall be construed accordingly;
- (ww) “intra circle traffic” means the telecommunication traffic originating and terminating within boundaries of the same Telecom Circle or Metro service area;
- (xx) “leased circuit” means a private dedicated circuit that links two or more locations using physical connections, transmission bandwidth, circuit switched technology, or packet switched technology;
- (yy) “letter of intent” or “LOI” means the letter issued under sub-rule (2) of rule 10 of these rules;
- (zz) “license” means a license, registration, or permission, by whatever name called, granted under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 for provision of telecommunication services or telecommunication network and the word “licensee” shall be construed accordingly;
- (aaa) “long distance call” means a call terminating in an area other than the local area in which it is originated;
- (bbb) “long distance network” is a telecommunication network of transmission and switching telecommunication equipment connected in a predetermined fashion to provide switched bearer interconnection between different local networks;
- (ccc) “Low Power Wide Area Network” or “LPWAN” is a type of wide area network which provides wireless connectivity to low-power devices over large distances that is suited for M2M communication;
- (ddd) “Machine to Machine (M2M) communication” is a type of telecommunication between two or more devices that do not necessarily need any direct human intervention;
- (eee) “Machine to Machine (M2M) service” means a type of telecommunication service using Machine to Machine (M2M) communication;
- (fff) “main telecommunication services” means the telecommunication services listed in sub-rule (2) of rule 4 of these rules;
- (ggg) “merger rules” means the Telecommunications (Regulation of Restructuring or Acquisition of Authorised Entities) Rules, 2025;
- (hhh) “migration rules” means the Telecommunications (Migration from License to Authorisation) Rules, 2025;

- (iii) “miscellaneous telecommunication services” means the telecommunication services that are identified under and grant of authorisation for which is governed by the Telecommunications (Authorisation for Provision of Miscellaneous Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2025;
- (jjj) “mobile number portability” or “MNP” means the facility which allows users to retain their existing telecommunication identifier when they switch from one authorised entity or licensee providing access service to another;
- (kkk) “national long distance (NLD) network” is a type of telecommunication network which carries bearer telecommunication traffic between two telecom circle or metro service areas or provides domestic bandwidth or leased circuit within the boundaries of the national service area;
- (lll) “national long distance (NLD) service” means a type of telecommunication service provisioned over the NLD network;
- (mmm) “network service operator” or “NSO” means an authorised entity or licensee providing telecommunication service by establishing, operating, maintaining, or expanding telecommunication network for the relevant telecommunication service;
- (nnn) “networth” shall have the meaning given to the term in sub-section (57) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013;
- (ooo) “Non-terrestrial networks (NTN)” means telecommunication networks or its segments that use either Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS), including High Altitude Platforms (HAPs), or satellites in different constellations, to carry a transmission equipment relay node or a base station;
- (ppp) “parent NSO” in relation to a VNO means the NSO with which such VNO seeks to enter into, or has entered into, an agreement for providing its telecommunication services;
- (qqq) “peering” means a process by which two or more internet networks connect and exchange traffic, either directly or through IXP, and without having to involve a third internet network;
- (rrr) “point of interconnection” or “POI” has the same meaning as defined in the interconnection regulations under the TRAI Act;
- (sss) “point of presence” or “POP” means a system of telecommunication networks of appropriate capacity established by the authorised entity to provide authorised telecommunication services;
- (ttt) “portal” means the portal notified by the Central Government under sub-rule (3) of rule 2 of these rules;
- (uuu) “prohibited investor” means a person who falls within any of the following categories:
 - (i) a person debarred from accessing the capital market by SEBI;
 - (ii) a person as may be determined by the Central Government when it considers it necessary or expedient so to do in the interest of national security;
 - (iii) a person whose authorisation or license, as the case may be, was cancelled on account of default in compliance with the terms and conditions of its authorisation or license;
 - (iv) a person who was in control of the person specified under clause (iii) at the time of default or of the cancellation; and
 - (v) a person or class of persons as may be identified by the Central Government, from time to time that are prohibited from holding any equity shares in, or controlling, directly or indirectly, an authorised entity or licensee, as the case may be;
- (vvv) “public land mobile network” or “PLMN” means a land based public mobile network;
- (www) “public switched telephone network” or “PSTN” means a fixed public telephone network providing a two-way switched telecommunication service;
- (xxx) “public utility service” means a telecommunication service, as declared by the Central Government from time to time, for use of general public by access through telecommunication network;
- (yyy) “roaming” means a telecommunication service that allows mobile terminal users to continue to use the telecommunication services subscribed in its home network, while travelling outside the geographical coverage area of the home network, by means of using a visited network;
- (zzz) “satellite system” or “satellite network” means a telecommunication network comprising satellites, system

control centers, gateways, together with associated telecommunication networks and terminals that enable direct communication channels between satellites and terminals, as well as connections to land networks through feeder links;

- (aaaa) “service area” means the geographical area for which the authorisation for provision of telecommunication service is granted, which can be of two types:
- (i) National Service Area which refers to the territory of India, territorial waters of India, and the Continental Shelf and Exclusive Economic Zone of India, in accordance with the Section 55 of the Act; and
 - (ii) Telecom circle or metro service area which refers to service areas listed in Schedule B to these rules;
- (bbbb) “SIM” means Subscriber Identity Module (SIM), by whatever name called and it includes embedded SIM (e-SIM), Integrated SIM (iSIM), soft SIM, or any other equivalent SIM, available in any form factor, used for securely storing a unique telecommunication identifier and its related authentication keys to identify and authenticate user on the telecommunication network of the authorised entity;
- (cccc) “stub-cable” means pre-laid, open-ended submarine cable placed from a cable landing station into sea waters;
- (dddd) “Subscriber Data Record” or “SDR” means a comprehensive repository of user information maintained by each authorised entity, in the format as may be specified by the Central Government;
- (eeee) “tariff” shall have the same meaning as provided in the Telecommunication Tariff Orders issued under the TRAI Act;
- (ffff) “Telecom cyber security” shall have the same meaning as specified in the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024;
- (gggg) “TRAI” means Telecom Regulatory Authority of India constituted under the TRAI Act;
- (hhhh) “TRAI Act” means Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997);
- (iiii) “updating of telecommunication services” means the process of replacing or upgrading an existing SIM or telecommunication services, or changing the details of the user, without any change to the unique telecommunication identifier assigned to such user;
- (jjjj) “user terminal (UT)” or “user equipment (UE)” means a type of telecommunication equipment used by a user to avail telecommunication service provided by an authorised entity;
- (kkkk) “virtual network operator” or “VNO” means an authorised entity or licensee providing telecommunication service by entering into mutual agreement with a parent NSO which may provide for: (a) connecting its telecommunication equipment or system to the telecommunication network of such NSO, or (b) using the telecommunication network of such NSO; and
- (llll) “VSAT” means Very Small Aperture Terminal.
- (2) Words and expressions used in these rules and not defined herein but defined in the Act shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.
 - (3) The Central Government may establish and notify one or more portals for the purpose of implementation of rules under the Act.

3. Applicability

These rules shall apply to any person, intending to provide or providing the telecommunication services specified in sub-rule (2) of rule 4, within the service area of authorisation.

CHAPTER 2: AUTHORISATION FOR MAIN TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

4. Categories of authorisations

- (1) Telecommunication service authorisations are classified into the following four broad categories: (a) main telecommunication services, (b) miscellaneous telecommunication services, (c) captive telecommunication service, and (d) broadcasting services.
- (2) Main telecommunication services authorisation shall comprise of the following sub-categories:
 - (a) unified service authorisation, which shall comprise the telecommunication services as detailed in Part A (Unified Service Authorisation) of Chapter 8 of these rules;

- (b) access service authorisation, which shall comprise the telecommunication services as detailed in Part B (Access Service Authorisation) of Chapter 8 of these rules;
 - (c) internet service authorisation, which shall comprise the telecommunication services as detailed in Part C (Internet Service Authorisation) of Chapter 8 of these rules; and
 - (d) long distance service authorisation, which shall comprise the telecommunication services as detailed in Part D (Long Distance Service Authorisation) of Chapter 8 of these rules.
- (3) The scope of these rules relates to main telecommunication services and reference to telecommunication services in the provisions set forth below shall mean main telecommunication services.

5. Types of authorisations

- (1) An authorisation for main telecommunication services may be granted for providing the relevant telecommunication service as a NSO or a VNO.
- (2) A NSO may establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication network as may be required within the scope of its authorisation, and may interconnect its telecommunication network in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.
- (3) A VNO may establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication network as may be required within the scope of its authorisation and enter into mutual agreements with one or more parent NSOs as specified below:
- (a) a VNO authorised to provide unified service may enter into agreement with an NSO that holds an authorisation for unified service;
 - (b) a VNO authorised to provide access service may enter into agreement with an NSO that holds an authorisation for unified service or access service or license for access service.
 - (c) a VNO authorised to provide wireline access service may enter into agreement with an NSO that holds an authorisation for unified service or access service, or license for access service;
 - (d) a VNO authorised to provide internet service may enter into agreement with an NSO that holds an authorisation for unified service, access service or internet service, or license for access service or internet service, as applicable; and
 - (e) a VNO authorised to provide long distance service may enter into agreement with an NSO that holds authorisation for unified service or long distance service or license for NLD or ILD service, as applicable.

Provided that in respect of each of the agreements specified above, the service area in which the VNO can provide telecommunication services shall be the smaller of either its own service area or the service area of its parent NSO.

- (4) A VNO may enter into agreements specified under sub-rule (3), with more than one parent NSO for all types of telecommunication services in a given service area, except for wireless access service, where such an agreement shall be with only one parent NSO. *Explanation:* In circumstances where the same VNO seeks to provide both wireless and wireline access service in a service area, such VNO may enter into an agreement with one parent NSO in respect of the wireless access service, while for wireline access service, it may enter into agreements with more than one parent NSO.
- (5) Any access by a parent NSO to a VNO shall be on the basis of a mutual agreement between the relevant VNO and NSO:

Provided that, the Central Government or TRAI may provide relevant notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, to protect the interest of users.

- (6) Each parent NSO and its VNOs shall provide updates to each other in advance in respect of any change in the status of their respective authorisations, including with respect to revocation, surrender or expiry of such authorisations, and further comply with the provisions of sub-rule (7) and (8) below.
- (7) In the event of revocation, surrender, or expiry of the authorisation of a NSO, such NSO shall notify its VNO, if any, clearly stating the options available to such VNOs, by issuing a notice of at least thirty days, prior to the effective date of revocation or surrender or expiry of its authorisation.
- (8) In the event of revocation, surrender, or expiry of the authorisation of a VNO, such VNO shall notify its NSO, by issuing a notice of at least thirty days, prior to the effective date of revocation or surrender or expiry of its authorisation, and for the telecommunication services other than mobile, all users of the VNO shall be migrated to any of the tariff plans of the parent NSO without any extra charges to the user:

Provided that the parent NSO shall ensure such migration as per the tariff plan opted by each user:

Provided further that the users of mobile telecommunication services of the VNO shall have the option to port their telecommunication services, using MNP facility, to the authorised entity of their choice.

- (9) The conditions set forth under sub-rule (6), sub-rule (7) and sub-rule (8) shall be made part of the mutual agreement between a parent NSO and its VNO, and such agreement shall stand terminated upon the effective date of revocation, surrender, or expiry of the authorisation of either VNO or NSO.

6. Service area of authorisation

The service area of authorisation for each category of main telecommunication service, shall be as follows:

- (a) The service area of authorisation for unified service shall be the national service area;
- (b) The service area of authorisation for access service shall be the telecom circle or metro service area;
- (c) The service area of authorisation for internet service shall be either the national service area, or telecom circle or metro service area; and
- (d) The service area of authorisation for long distance service shall be the national service area.

7. Duration of Authorisation

- (1) The initial validity period of an authorisation for provision of telecommunication services shall be twenty years from the effective date unless curtailed or revoked earlier for reasons specified in these rules.
- (2) The duration of an authorisation may be renewed as provided under rule 18.

8. Eligibility criteria for grant of an authorisation

- (1) An applicant seeking authorisation under these rules shall be a company incorporated under the Companies Act having minimum paid up equity capital and minimum network, as specified in Schedule C to these rules:

Provided that where an applicant possesses one or more authorisations or applies for one or more new authorisations:

- (a) the requirement of minimum paid up equity capital shall be equal to the sum total of the minimum paid up equity capital requirement for each such authorisation as specified under Schedule C.
- (b) the requirement of minimum network shall be equal to the sum total of the minimum network requirement for each such authorisation as specified under Schedule C.

Provided further that where an applicant possesses one or more authorisations or applies for one or more new authorisations under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Act, for any type of telecommunication service or telecommunication network, the requirement of minimum network and minimum paid up equity capital shall be equal to the sum total of the minimum network and minimum paid up equity capital requirement for each such authorisation, respectively.

- (2) The foreign direct investment in any applicant shall be in compliance with the laws and policies of India as applicable at the time of making of the application for authorisation under rule 9:

Provided that direct or indirect investors in the applicant shall also be in compliance with the laws and policies of India as applicable.

- (3) The applicant shall not have any direct or indirect investment from a prohibited investor or control of a prohibited investor.
- (4) The applicant shall ensure that its beneficial interest in another authorised entity, is in compliance with requirements of rule 15 and shall provide a certificate from a practicing company secretary or chartered accountant of such compliance to the Central Government, along with its application under sub-rule (1) of rule 9.
- (5) In the event the applicant is an entity that had held a license under the Indian Telegraph Act 1885, and which license had been terminated or surrendered or expired, then such applicant shall have to make payment of all amounts, as may be determined by the Central Government, as being payable under the earlier terminated or surrendered or expired license, including applicable interest calculated based on the rate stipulated for delayed payment, under the relevant license that had been held by such applicant.
- (6) In the event the applicant is an entity that had been granted any authorisation under the Act and the following circumstances apply:

- (a) it had surrendered such authorisation but has pending dues payable in respect thereof under rule 23;
- (b) it had been subject to revocation under rule 21 and is submitting an application for authorisation under these rules after adjudication thereof, but during such period when it could have submitted an application for authorisation, but has pending dues payable thereof; or
- (c) its authorisation had expired due to efflux of time, and it has pending dues payable;

then such applicant shall make payment of all amounts, as may be determined by the Central Government, to be considered as eligible to apply for an authorisation under these rules.

9. Application for obtaining an authorisation

- (1) Any person intending to provide telecommunication services shall submit an application on the portal, in the form and manner, and accompanied by such documents as specified on the portal for this purpose.
- (2) If the applicant for authorisation under these rules is an existing licensee, it shall, along with its application for authorisation:
 - (a) apply for migration of all its existing licenses for all categories of telecommunication services to the corresponding authorisation for telecommunication service, in accordance with the migration rules, and submit proof of such application; or
 - (b) submit proof of its application for migration if such application has already been made:

Provided that this sub-rule shall not apply in respect of situations specified under sub-rule (5).
- (3) Every application under sub-rule (1) shall be accompanied with a non-refundable processing fee as stipulated in Schedule A to these rules.
- (4) An applicant under these rules may simultaneously apply for one or more authorisations in different service areas.
- (5) An authorised entity shall not be permitted to hold more than one authorisation for a specific telecommunication service in the same service area:

Provided that in the event an authorised entity or a licensee holding an authorisation or license in a service area, as the case may be, makes an application for obtaining an authorisation for a telecommunication service or obtains an authorisation for a telecommunication service in accordance with the merger rules, the scope and service area of which includes in its entirety, the scope and service area for which it already holds an authorisation or license, then such existing authorisation or license shall be deemed to be subsumed into the new authorisation upon its grant or acquisition or restructuring as per the merger rules, and the authorisation or license so subsumed shall be deemed to be cancelled.

Provided further that, the subsumption and cancellation of the prior authorisation or license:

- (a) shall not result in any extinguishment or waiver of any dues, penalties, liabilities or obligations incurred under such earlier authorisation or license, as the case may be, and
- (b) such dues, penalties, liabilities or obligations shall stand transferred to and be deemed to be carried forward under the new authorisation, and remain payable by such entity and recoverable by the Central Government.

10. Grant of Authorisation

- (1) Upon examination of the application submitted under sub-rule (1) of rule 9, the Central Government may seek clarifications or further documents, as may be required.
- (2) In the event an applicant is found to be eligible for grant of an authorisation, a letter of intent shall be issued to the applicant through the portal.
- (3) An applicant shall comply with the terms and conditions as specified in the letter of intent within the time period specified therein, including, payment of the entry fee, as specified for such authorisation in Schedule A, and submission, in the form and manner as specified on the portal, of an initial guarantee, of the amount as specified for such authorisation in Schedule A, of any of the following:
 - (a) a bank guarantee from any scheduled bank or public financial institution,
 - (b) an insurance surety bond, issued by an insurance company, in accordance with the applicable rules and guidelines issued by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, with a minimum validity period of one year, or

(c) non-interest-bearing security deposit with the Central Government;
and submit evidence of the same on the portal.

- (4) If the requirements stipulated in the letter of intent are not fulfilled within the time period stipulated in the letter of intent, such letter shall be deemed to have lapsed, and the application for authorisation shall stand rejected:

Provided that the Central Government may, based on consideration of a request for extension of time made by an applicant prior to the expiry of the time specified in the letter of intent, in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal, grant a one-time extension not exceeding thirty days from the date specified in the letter of intent.

- (5) Upon compliance with the terms and conditions of the letter of intent by the applicant, a unique authorisation number shall be generated on the portal and an authorisation shall be granted to the applicant in the format specified in Schedule D to these rules.

- (6) Each application for authorisation shall be processed on the basis of the statements, averments, representations and submissions made by the applicant and on the basis of the supporting documents so provided and if at any time, such information is found to be incorrect, the provisions of rules 21 and 22 shall apply.

- (7) The Central Government shall endeavour, to the extent reasonably practicable, to decide on an application received under rule 9 within a period of sixty days of the applicant providing clarifications or additional documents as may be required under sub-rule (1):

Provided that any decision rejecting the application, other than as a consequence of sub-rule (4), shall be accompanied by reasons to be specified in writing.

- (8) Any applicant who has been issued a letter of intent for grant of a license under the Indian Telegraph Act 1885, prior to notification of these rules, shall be considered for grant of corresponding authorisation under the Act, subject to acceptance by the applicant, and in such cases, the processing fee and entry fee, if already paid, shall be adjusted towards the processing fee and entry fee, as specified, for grant of such authorisation:

Provided that the applicant shall also be required to pay the difference of entry fee, if required, in respect of grant of authorisation under the Act.

11. Non-Exclusive authorisation

Each authorisation granted pursuant to these rules shall be on a non-exclusive basis and additional authorisations with same or different terms and conditions for the same or different telecommunication services may be granted by the Central Government within the same or other service areas without any restriction on the number of authorised entities:

Provided that the Central Government may, on its own or through any public entity, provide telecommunication services anywhere in India.

CHAPTER 3: GENERAL CONDITIONS

12. Compliance with the Act

- (1) An authorised entity shall comply with the provisions of the Act and the rules thereunder, including all notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines issued by the Central Government under the provisions of the Act or rules, which shall be deemed to be incorporated into each authorisation issued under the Act.
- (2) An authorised entity shall also comply with notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, not inconsistent with these rules, issued by the Central Government for the purpose of giving effect to these rules.

13. Compliance with the TRAI Act

An authorised entity shall be bound by the provisions of the TRAI Act, and any non-compliance thereof shall be addressed under the TRAI Act.

14. Continuing Compliance with Eligibility Conditions

- (1) An authorised entity shall maintain, at all times during the term of authorisation, the minimum paid up equity capital as specified in sub-rule (1) of rule 8 read with Schedule C to these rules.
- (2) An authorised entity as well as its investors shall continue to comply with all applicable laws and policies of India, including laws relating to foreign investment, at all times during the duration of authorisation.

- (3) An authorised entity shall ensure that no prohibited investor has any direct or indirect investment, or control in such entity, at all times during the duration of authorisation.

15. Limitations on Cross Holdings

- (1) An authorised entity, holding access spectrum or offering a type of telecommunication service or network, as may be specified by the Central Government, or its material shareholder, directly or indirectly, shall not have any beneficial interest in another authorised entity or licensee holding access spectrum or offering such specified type of telecommunication service or network in the same service area:

Provided that the limitation under this rule shall not be applicable:

- (a) between a VNO and its parent NSO; and
 - (b) between VNOs that have the same parent NSO.
- (2) An authorised entity holding an authorisation to provide unified service or access service or long distance service under the Act, or its material shareholder, shall not hold any equity, either directly or indirectly, in another authorised entity holding an authorisation to provide mobile number portability service.
- (3) For the purpose of this rule:
- (a) “material shareholder” shall mean a person, other than Central Government, financial institutions and scheduled banks, which hold ten percent or more equity in the authorised entity;
 - (b) “beneficial interest” shall mean holding of any equity or control, directly or indirectly, including through chain of companies, over the affairs of the relevant authorised entity, whether or not such person is a shareholder, or director or holding any position in the management of the company.

16. Reporting and Disclosure Obligations

- (1) An authorised entity shall submit to the Central Government by 15th January of every year:
- (a) details of its Indian and foreign equity holders, both direct and indirect, as of 1st January of that year;
 - (b) compliance report regarding foreign direct investment pursuant to sub-rule (2) of rule 8; and
 - (c) compliance report regarding beneficial interest in another authorised entity pursuant to rule 15;
- in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal for this purpose along with a certification by its statutory auditor appointed in accordance with Companies Act, 2013 or a practicing company secretary, confirming the same.
- (2) An authorised entity shall submit to the Central Government by 15th January of every year, a compliance report on minimum paid up equity capital requirement, as of 1st January of that year, in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal for this purpose along with a certification by the company secretary or its statutory auditor appointed in accordance with Companies Act, 2013, confirming the same, countersigned by the duly authorised director of such authorised entity:
- Provided that* the Central Government may exempt authorised entities, having a turnover not exceeding an amount as may be specified by the Central Government, from the requirement of such submission.
- (3) An authorised entity shall:
- (a) report any change in its shareholding, in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal, within fifteen days from the date of such change in shareholding and shall also ensure compliance with any statutory requirements, including obtaining relevant permissions, under applicable laws;
 - (b) report any change in the name under which it has been incorporated under the Companies Act, in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal, along with the certified copy of the certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies for the same, within thirty days from the date of issue of such certificate;
 - (c) submit to the Central Government any change in details, relating to ownership, control, address and contact details, or any other such material details, in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal, within fifteen days of such change.
 - (d) furnish to the Central Government, on demand, such documents, accounts, estimates, returns, reports or other information as directed within specified timelines, in the form and manner, as may be specified on the portal.
- (4) An authorised entity shall nominate and communicate to the Central Government and the relevant authorised agency, in the form and manner specified for this purpose, the details of a nodal person who shall be

responsible for providing any report or information or extending the necessary support, as may be required under these rules.

17. Restrictions on transfer of authorisation

- (1) An authorised entity shall not:
 - (a) assign or transfer its authorisation, whether directly or indirectly, or in any manner whatsoever, without the prior written approval of the Central Government;
 - (b) enter into any partnership or agreement for sub-leasing or sub-authorisation; or
 - (c) create any interest in favour of a third party in such authorisation, except to the extent and in the manner permitted in the rules prescribed under section 45 of the Act.
- (2) An authorisation may be assigned or transferred only pursuant to:
 - (a) any restructuring or acquisition of an authorised entity in accordance with the merger rules; or
 - (b) exercise of security interest by any lender financing the relevant authorised entity holding such authorisation in accordance with the rules prescribed under section 45 of the Act.

18. Renewal of Authorisation

- (1) An authorised entity may submit an application for renewal of authorisation, in the form and manner as specified on the portal for this purpose, at least twelve months prior to the expiry of the authorisation, along with processing fee for such renewal, as specified in Schedule A of these rules.
Provided that an application for renewal may be submitted up to four months prior to the expiry of the authorisation, subject to payment of late fees as may be specified by the Central Government for this purpose.
- (2) The Central Government shall, on receipt of an application under sub-rule (1), consider renewal of duration of authorisation by a term of twenty years, subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified by the Central Government, as well as compliance with law and policy applicable at the time of such renewal.
Provided that any decision rejecting the application shall be accompanied by reasons to be specified in writing.
- (3) Where an application has been rejected in terms of sub-rule (2), or no application for renewal of authorisation is received within the timelines specified under sub-rule (1), then such authorisation shall expire at the end of the validity period of an existing authorisation, and the authorised entity shall notify all its users, clearly stating the options available to such users, including that of MNP, by issuing a notice of at least thirty days, as regards the effective date of expiry of its authorisation by efflux of time and ensure quality of telecommunication network and telecommunication service, till the effective date of expiry.

19. Assignment and Use of Spectrum

- (1) The grant of an authorisation under the Act or a permission under an existing authorisation to use satellite systems for providing telecommunication services, does not confer any right to assignment and use of spectrum.
- (2) An authorised entity may apply for assignment of the spectrum under the rules prescribed under sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Act.
- (3) Where an authorised entity holds spectrum, or applies for assignment of spectrum under the relevant rules, the terms and conditions of such assignment, and where applicable, the terms and conditions of the relevant Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for auction of spectrum, shall be deemed to be incorporated into the terms and conditions of the authorisation, and an authorised entity shall use the spectrum for provision of telecommunication services in conformity with the terms and conditions of assignment, including, where applicable, the terms and conditions of the relevant NIA, as well as the terms and conditions of authorisation.

20. Force Majeure event

- (1) If the performance of any obligation under an authorisation by an authorised entity is prevented or delayed, in whole or in part, by reason of a force majeure event, and such entity has complied with its notification obligations under sub-rule (2), the Central Government shall, neither revoke the authorisation, nor claim any damages against such authorised entity, in respect of such non-performance or delay in performance for the duration of such event.
- (2) An authorised entity shall notify to the Central Government, in the form and manner as may be specified for this purpose, the occurrence of a force majeure event within twenty-one days from the date of

occurrence of such event:

Provided that telecommunication service under the authorisation shall be resumed as soon as practicable, after such force majeure event comes to an end or ceases to exist and the decision of the Central Government as to whether the telecommunication service may be so resumed and the time frame within which such telecommunication service may be resumed or not, shall be final and binding.

- (3) Any force majeure event shall not result in the extension of the duration of the authorisation:

Provided that the Central Government may, on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the circumstances of the force majeure event, reduce or waive the authorisation fee for the inoperative period caused due to such event.

- (4) An authorised entity shall not be entitled to claim any compensation for the force majeure event, or any damages against the Central Government for non-performance or delay in performance of the Central Government's obligations by reason of the force majeure event.

21. Default by an authorised entity

- (1) The adjudication and appeal of any contravention or breach of the terms and conditions of authorisation shall be governed by the Telecommunications (Adjudication and Appeal) Rules, 2025:

Explanation:

- (a) In the event an authorised entity against whom corporate insolvency resolution process has been initiated under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and a resolution professional is appointed for such authorised entity and such authorised entity fails to comply with terms and conditions of authorisation, then such breach shall be governed by the Telecommunications (Adjudication and Appeal) Rules, 2025;
 - (b) In the event an authorised entity is directed to be placed into liquidation or is ordered to be wound up; then the Central Government without prejudice to any other remedy available to it, for breach of terms and conditions of authorisation, may revoke the authorisations granted to such authorised entity and sub-rule (5) to sub-rule (11) of this rule shall become applicable.
- (2) The Central Government may specify the gradation of penalties imposed pursuant to such adjudicatory process as applicable for breach of terms and conditions of authorisation, having regard to the factors listed under sub-section (3) of section 32 of the Act.
- (3) Where recommendations regarding suspension, revocation or curtailment of the duration of the authorisation under clause (b) to sub-section (1) of section 32 of the Act have been made, the Central Government shall issue a show cause notice to an authorised entity, specifying a period of up to twenty-one days to reply to the same.
- (4) The Central Government may, after due consideration of the reply submitted by an authorised entity, suspend or curtail, in whole or in part, or revoke the authorisation of such entity:
- Provided that* in the event an authorised entity does not submit its reply within the time period specified in the show cause notice, the Central Government shall proceed to take a decision on suspension, revocation or curtailment of authorisation based on the material on record.
- (5) Any order of suspension or revocation or curtailment of an authorisation shall be published by the Central Government on the portal and be effective from the sixty-first day from the date of such order.
- (6) An authorised entity shall make public any order of curtailment, suspension or revocation within forty-eight hours of such order being made available on the portal:
- Provided that* the suspension of authorisation shall not be a cause or ground for extension of the duration of the authorisation.
- (7) Pursuant to the order under sub-rule (5) published on the portal, an authorised entity shall also give notice of at least thirty days to all its users within thirty days from the date of such order, clearly stating the options available to such users, including that of MNP.
- (8) An authorised entity shall maintain the quality of telecommunication network and telecommunication service till the effective date specified under sub-rule (5).
- (9) An authorised entity shall not be entitled to refund of any fees or charges paid in respect of, or under an authorisation, if such authorisation is suspended, curtailed or revoked.
- Provided that* no authorisation fee shall be payable for the period for which the authorisation remains suspended in whole.

- (10) An authorised entity whose authorisation is revoked as well as its promoters shall not be eligible to apply for authorisation for any of the telecommunication services under the Act for a period, as may be determined by the Central Government, which shall not exceed three years.
- (11) The terms and conditions provided in the rules for security interest notified under section 45 of the Act, shall apply in respect of any revocation of authorisation.

22. Reversal of suspension, revocation or curtailment

- (1) An authorised entity whose authorisation has been suspended, curtailed or revoked under sub-rule (4) of rule 21, may, within fifteen days from the date of the order for suspension, curtailment or revocation, submit to the Central Government the remedial measures it has undertaken to address the underlying breach of terms and conditions of authorisation, with evidence thereof.
- (2) The Central Government may, after due consideration of such submission, and if it is satisfied that the substantial violation has been remedied, within thirty days from the date of the order for suspension, curtailment or revocation, reinstate the authorisation.

23. Surrender of authorisation

- (1) An authorised entity seeking to surrender an authorisation granted under these rules, shall submit an application, in the form and manner as specified on the portal, at least sixty days prior to the proposed date of surrender, along with an undertaking, and other information as specified by the Central Government on the portal:
Provided that a NSO or VNO seeking to surrender the authorisation and applying to the Central Government under this sub-rule shall also comply with their respective obligations specified under sub-rule (7) and sub-rule (8) of rule 5.
- (2) The Central Government shall either accept or reject an application under sub-rule (1), within thirty days of receipt of such application, and if accepted, the effective date of surrender shall be the sixty-first day from the date of receipt of such application by the Central Government:
Provided that, any decision rejecting the application, shall be accompanied by reasons to be specified in writing.
- (3) If an application under sub-rule (1) is neither accepted nor rejected within thirty days of receipt of the application by the Central Government, such application shall be deemed to be accepted.
- (4) The details relating to surrender of an authorisation by an authorised entity shall be made available on the portal by the Central Government and the same shall be made public by an authorised entity, within forty-eight hours of being made available on the portal.
- (5) Pursuant to the acceptance under sub-rule (2) or deemed acceptance under sub-rule (3), an authorised entity shall notify all its users, clearly stating the options available to such users, including that of MNP, by issuing a notice of at least thirty days, as regards the effective date of surrender of its authorisation and ensure quality of telecommunication network and telecommunication service till effective date of surrender.
- (6) An authorised entity shall maintain the quality of telecommunication network and telecommunication service till the effective date specified under sub-rule (2).
- (7) An authorised entity surrendering its authorisation under this rule, shall be responsible for the payment of all dues payable till the effective date of surrender as determined by the Central Government, including in respect of authorisation fees.
- (8) The terms and conditions provided in the rules for security interest notified under section 45 of the Act shall apply in respect of any surrender of authorisation.

24. Suspension or Revocation on grounds of National Security or Public interest

- (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of these rules, the Central Government may suspend or revoke the operation of the authorisation, without any notice period, in whole or in part, at any time, if, in the opinion of the Central Government, it is necessary or expedient to do so in public interest, or in the interest of national security, or for the proper conduct of the telecommunication, or in the event of national emergency, or in the event of war or low intensity conflict or other similar situations:
Provided that the Central Government shall not be responsible for any damage or loss caused or arising out of such actions.

- (2) An authorised entity shall comply with any measures as specified by the Central Government under such directions for suspension or revocation.
- (3) Any suspension of authorisation under this rule shall not be a cause or ground for extension of the duration of the authorisation.
- (4) An authorised entity shall not be entitled to any refund of fees or any other charges paid:

Provided however that no authorisation fee shall be payable for the period for which the authorisation remains suspended in whole.

25. Actions pursuant to revocation, surrender or expiry of authorisation

- (1) Where the telecommunication network of an authorised entity or a licensee has interconnection or peering with the telecommunication network of any other authorised entity or licensee, whose authorisation or license is subject to revocation or surrender or has expired, or where an authorised entity or licensee has provided telecommunication resources to any other authorised entity or licensee whose authorisation or license is revoked or surrendered or expired, then such authorised entity or licensee shall, upon the effective date of revocation or surrender or expiry of such authorisation or license, disconnect such interconnection or peering, and withdraw such telecommunication resources.
- (2) On revocation, surrender, or expiry of the authorisation held by an authorised entity, the spectrum assigned, if any, to such entity shall stand withdrawn from the effective date of such revocation, surrender or expiry.
- (3) On revocation, surrender, or expiry of the authorisation, the relevant authorised entity shall manage its radio equipment in the manner as prescribed under the Telecommunications (Radio Equipment Possession Authorisation) Rules, 2025.

CHAPTER 4: FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

26. Fee and charges:

- (1) In this Chapter 4, the terms Gross Revenue, Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR), Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), IUC and Presumptive AGR, shall have the respective meanings specified below:
 - (a) “Gross Revenue” of an authorised entity shall include revenues accrued to an authorised entity by way of all operations and activities and all income from any source including on account of interest, dividend, rent, profit on sale of fixed assets and miscellaneous income, without any set-off for related items of expenses.
 - (b) “Applicable Gross Revenue” or “ApGR” for the purposes of calculating Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), shall be equal to Gross Revenue of an authorised entity as reduced by the items listed below:
 - (i) revenue from operations other than telecom activities or operations;
 - (ii) revenue from activities under an authorisation, permission or registration issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;
 - (iii) receipts from the Digital Bharat Nidhi; and
 - (iv) revenue falling under the following items:
 - (a) income from dividend;
 - (b) income from interest;
 - (c) capital gains on account of profit on sale of fixed assets and securities;
 - (d) gains from foreign exchange rates fluctuations;
 - (e) income from property rent;
 - (f) insurance claims;
 - (g) bad debts recovered; and
 - (h) excess provisions written back:

Provided that the Central Government shall from time to time specify the description and conditions applicable to these revenue sources and the manner of their computation.

- (c) “Adjusted Gross Revenue” or “AGR”:
 - (i) In respect of a NSO, AGR shall be calculated by excluding the following from the ApGR:

- (a) interconnection usage charges (IUC), related to calls and SMS, paid to other authorised entities or licensees; and
- (b) roaming revenues paid to other authorised entities or licensees within India and telecommunication service providers outside India; and
- (ii) In respect of a VNO, AGR shall be calculated by excluding from the ApGR, charges paid by the VNO to one or more NSOs under an agreement for provision of telecommunication network, including bandwidth, leased circuits, call minutes and SMSs, as may be necessary for a VNO to provide telecommunication services to its users, subject to submission to the Central Government the copy of the agreement, specifying such charges, along with proof(s) of actual payment of such amounts.
- (d) “IUC” refers to the charges as defined in the Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges Regulations, 2003 and the Short Message Service (SMS) Termination Charges Regulations, 2013, issued by TRAI, as amended from time to time.
- (e) “Presumptive AGR” means an amount that is equal to five per cent of sum of the amount payable by an authorised entity for right to use of access spectrum and in case an authorised entity acquires the right to use of access spectrum at different times, the presumptive AGR shall be five percent of the cumulative sum of all such amounts payable by an authorised entity for right to use of access spectrum.
- (2) An authorised entity shall pay an annual authorisation fee for each authorisation, payable from the effective date of such authorisation, which shall be eight per cent of the AGR:

Provided that from the second year of the effective date of the authorisation, and for each subsequent year, the authorisation fee shall be the higher of: (a) the amount specified under sub-rule (2), or (b) thirty percent of the applicable entry fee as specified in Schedule A.

Provided further that in case of renewal of an authorisation, the authorisation fee shall be subject to a minimum of thirty percent of the entry fee of the respective authorisation from the effective date of renewal.

Provided also that in case of migration of an existing license to a relevant authorisation, the authorisation fee shall be subject to a minimum of thirty percent of the entry fee of the respective authorisation from the effective date of migration.
- (3) Where an authorised entity has the right to use of access spectrum, the authorisation fee shall be the higher of: (a) eight per cent of the presumptive AGR, or (b) the amount specified under sub-rule (2); or (c) thirty percent of the applicable entry fee as specified in Schedule A:

Provided that where the authorisation fee is based on clause (a), it shall be calculated from the date of acquiring the right to use of access spectrum or the effective date of the authorisation, whichever is later.
- (4) A VNO shall pay the spectrum charges as per the rates applicable for its parent NSO.
- (5) The authorisation fee under sub-rule (2) and sub-rule (3) shall be inclusive of the amount attributable to the Digital Bharat Nidhi calculated at the rate of five per cent of the AGR.
- (6) The quantum of authorisation fee or amount attributable to Digital Bharat Nidhi as specified may be varied through amendment of these rules at any time within the duration of the authorisation.
- (7) In case an authorised entity acquires the right to use of spectrum under section 4 of the Act, in addition to the authorisation fee, spectrum charges linked to AGR, if any, as per the rate specified in the rules prescribed under sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Act, shall be payable in accordance with rule 27.

27. Schedule of Payment

- (1) The authorisation fee or spectrum charges linked to AGR determined under these rules shall be payable in four quarterly instalments during each financial year commencing first of April, and fee for any duration of authorisation that is less than a quarter shall be calculated on a pro-rata basis based on actual number of days in the relevant quarter.
- (2) An authorised entity shall make payment of the quarterly instalments of the authorisation fee and spectrum charges linked to AGR in the following manner:
 - (a) the quarterly instalment in respect of each of the first three quarters of a financial year shall be paid within fifteen days of completion of the relevant quarter; and

- (b) the quarterly instalment for the last quarter shall be paid in advance by the twenty-fifth of March, calculated on the basis of expected revenue for that quarter, subject to a minimum amount equal to the authorisation fee and spectrum charges linked to AGR paid for the previous quarter:

Provided that an authorised entity shall adjust and pay the difference between the advance payment made for the last quarter and the actual amount duly payable for such quarter by the fifteenth of April of the next financial year.

- (3) Payments pursuant to sub-rule (2) shall be calculated on the basis of revenue on accrual basis for the relevant quarter, and shall be accompanied, in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal, by: (a) a self-certificate, signed and electronically verified by a representative of the authorised entity, who is authorised by a board resolution and general power of attorney, and (b) a statement of revenue for each authorisation signed and electronically verified by a representative of an authorised entity.

- (4) An authorised entity shall, on or before the thirtieth of June of each year:

- (a) submit statement of revenue for all quarters of previous financial year, duly audited and signed by its statutory auditor appointed in accordance with Companies Act, 2013, in such form and manner as may be specified on the portal for this purpose; and
- (b) make the final adjustment of the authorisation fee and spectrum charges linked to AGR, including applicable interest as per sub-rule (5), for the previous financial year, based on sub-rule (2) or sub-rule (3) of rule 26, as applicable.

- (5) In the event of any delay in payment of authorisation fee or spectrum charges linked to AGR or any other dues payable by an authorised entity beyond the period specified for such payment, the authorised entity shall also be liable to pay interest calculated at the rate of one-year marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) of State Bank of India as existing at the beginning of the relevant financial year, namely first of April, plus two per cent compounded annually:

Provided that any part of a month shall be construed as a full month for the purpose of calculation of interest.

- (6) An authorised entity shall submit a reconciliation statement between the figures appearing in the submitted quarterly statements under sub-rule (3) with those appearing in annual accounts, duly audited and signed by its statutory auditor appointed in accordance with Companies Act, 2013, along with a copy of the published annual accounts and audit report within seven days of the date of signing of the audit report or within the timeline provided under Companies Act, 2013 for filing of annual financial statements, whichever is earlier:

Provided that the annual financial statements, the statement of revenue, and the reconciliation statement as mentioned above shall be prepared following the norms as specified for this purpose by the Central Government.

- (7) All sums of money becoming due and payable under these rules shall be paid by an authorised entity, in the manner as may be specified, on the portal.

28. Guarantee requirements for authorisation

- (1) An authorised entity shall, for the purpose specified in sub-rule (2), submit a guarantee in the form and manner, as may be specified on the portal, of any of the following types:

- (a) a bank guarantee from any scheduled bank or public financial institution;
- (b) an insurance surety bond, issued by an insurance company, in accordance with the applicable rules and guidelines issued by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India; or
- (c) non-interest-bearing security deposit with the Central Government.

- (2) The purpose of the guarantee as specified in sub-rule (1) is to provide security for due compliance of all the terms and conditions of the authorisation, including but not limited to payment of authorisation fee, spectrum charges linked to AGR, penalty imposed for contravention or breach of any of the terms and conditions of the authorisation or non-compliance of notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, issued by the Central Government from time to time, and any other dues payable under the authorisation.

- (3) The guarantee submitted under sub-rule (1) shall be subject to periodic annual review by the Central Government and an authorised entity shall maintain a valid guarantee for the duration of authorisation, or until all dues under the authorisation are cleared, whichever is later:

Provided that the initial guarantee submitted pursuant to the letter of intent shall be for the amount as specified in respect of each relevant authorisation in Schedule A, and for the subsequent years of authorisation, for an amount determined by the Central Government, based on the higher of: (a) the amount of initial guarantee, and (b) twenty per cent of combined estimated sum, calculated in accordance with the procedure specified for this purpose on the portal, of the following:

- (i) authorisation fee for two quarters;
 - (ii) spectrum charges linked to AGR for two quarters; and
 - (iii) any other dues that are not otherwise secured.
- (4) An authorised entity shall extend the validity period of such guarantee at least one month prior to the date of its expiry, without any demand or notice from the Central Government.
- (5) Any failure to maintain a valid guarantee at any time during the duration of the authorisation, or until all dues under the authorisation are cleared, whichever is later, shall entitle the Central Government to encash the bank guarantee, claim the insurance surety bond, or appropriate the security deposit, as the case may be, without any notice to the authorised entity:

Provided that no interest or compensation shall be payable by the Central Government on encashment, claim or appropriation of such guarantee.

- (6) When the guarantee has been encashed, claimed or appropriated, fully or partially, an authorised entity on such occasions shall restore such encashed, claimed or appropriated guarantee, as the case may be, to the full amount within fifteen days of such encashment, claim, or appropriation:

Provided that the Central Government may, upon receipt of a written request from the authorised entity **before the expiry of the period specified in sub-rule (6)**, allow a **one-time extension not exceeding ten days**, for such restoration, subject to reasons being recorded in writing.

- (7) Without prejudice to its rights or any other remedy, including those under the Telecommunications (Adjudication and Appeal) Rules, 2025, the Central Government may encash, claim or appropriate the guarantee in the following cases:

- (a) non-payment of authorisation fee, spectrum charges linked to AGR, or any other dues payable under the authorisation or assignment;
- (b) non-payment of dues arising out of penalties imposed by the Central Government; or
- (c) breach of any other term or condition of authorisation or assignment.

- (8) On revocation, surrender, or expiry of the authorisation, the relevant guarantee shall be released to an authorised entity only after ensuring clearance of all dues, which an authorised entity is liable to pay to the Central Government:

Provided that in case of failure to pay the amounts due to the Central Government, the outstanding amounts shall be realized through encashment, claim or appropriation of the guarantee without prejudice to any other actions for recovery of the amounts due to the Central Government, without any further communication to such authorised entity.

29. Assessment of authorisation fee and spectrum charges linked to AGR

- (1) The Central Government may carry out the assessment of authorisation fees, spectrum charges linked to AGR, and any other charges due to the Central Government under these rules, in accordance with the procedure specified for this purpose.

Explanation: For the purposes of this rule, the term “assessment” shall include reassessment and recomputation.

- (2) An authorised entity shall submit relevant documents in support of the amount excluded from ApGR to arrive at AGR in the form and manner, as specified on the portal.
- (3) Where an authorised entity holds an authorisation for any other telecommunication service or telecommunication network, or for the same telecommunication service in a different service area, it shall maintain and furnish separate statement of computation of authorisation fee for each authorisation and comply with notifications, orders, directions or guidelines, issued by the Central Government, as well as orders, directions, guidelines, or regulations as may be issued by the TRAI, for this purpose.

- (4) An authorised entity shall also prepare and furnish the annual accounts in accordance with the accounting norms and principles notified, and directions as may be specified by the Central Government or TRAI for this purpose.
- (5) An authorised entity, in respect of each authorisation, shall:
- (a) compile and maintain accounting records, that are sufficient to show and explain its transactions in respect of each completed quarter during the duration of the authorisation or of such lesser periods as the Central Government may specify, fairly presenting the costs, including capital costs, revenue, and financial position of an authorised entity's business under the authorisation including a reasonable evaluation of the assets employed in and the liabilities attributable to an authorised entity's business for the quantification of revenue or any other purpose;
 - (b) pay the IUC related to calls and SMS, and roaming charges to other authorised entities and telecommunication service providers outside India for international roaming, as applicable;
 - (c) separately pay charges for telecommunication network obtained by an authorised entity from other authorised entities, which shall be governed by mutual agreements with such entities and regulations of TRAI, where applicable;
 - (d) ensure that bilateral settlement of accounts with other authorised entities, or with telecommunication service providers outside India for international roaming, shall be conducted through normal banking channels in a transparent manner; and
 - (e) furnish to the Central Government details of the mechanism for the settlement of accounts with other authorised entities, including in respect of IUC, charges for usage of network and facilities, and charges for domestic and international roaming, as well as details of the actual settlements.
- (6) An authorised entity shall maintain and preserve billing and other accounting records of a financial year, in electronic as well as hard copy, for a period of at least six years from the date of publishing of duly audited and approved accounts of an authorised entity:
- Provided that*, if the authorisation fee, spectrum charges linked to AGR or any other charges for any period are under dispute, the said records shall be retained until the dispute is resolved, even if the period extends beyond the six-year period specified above.
- (7) The Central Government or the TRAI may, at any time, direct an authorised entity to supply information or provide access to the books of annual accounts that such authorised entity maintains in respect of the provision of telecommunication services under the terms of its authorisation, and such authorised entity shall forthwith comply with such direction.
- (8) The records of an authorised entity shall be subject to such scrutiny as may be determined by the Central Government, with a view to facilitating independent verification of the amounts due to the Central Government, including authorisation fees, spectrum charges linked to AGR, and any other charges.
- (9) The Central Government may, on forming an opinion that the statements of revenue or annual accounts submitted by an authorised entity are inaccurate or misleading, order audit of the accounts of an authorised entity by appointing one or more auditors, who shall have the same powers which the statutory auditors of the company have under section 143 of the Companies Act, 2013, and the remuneration of such auditors, as determined by the Central Government, shall be payable by an authorised entity.
- (10) Without prejudice to sub-rule (9), the Central Government may, at any time, appoint an auditor having the same powers which the statutory auditors of the company have under section 143 of the Companies Act, 2013, to undertake special audit of an authorised entity's accounts and records, and the remuneration of such auditors, as determined by the Central Government, shall be payable by such authorised entity.
- (11) If an authorised entity fails to submit the annual accounts, audit report and other required documents under sub-rule (4) and (6) of rule 27 within nine months from the end of relevant financial year, the Central Government, after reviewing all available documents and information and relevant materials, may carry out the assessment of authorisation fee or spectrum charges linked to AGR, on best judgement basis:
- Provided that*, before proceeding with such an assessment, the Central Government shall issue a notice to an authorised entity providing it an opportunity of being heard.
- (12) No assessment under this rule shall be carried out for a relevant financial year after a period of four years from the end of such financial year except as provided under sub-rule (13).
- (13) The Central Government may carry out an assessment after the lapse of four years from the end of the relevant financial year, and up to six years from the end of such financial year, if it is of the opinion that

the amount that has escaped assessment is likely to be equivalent to an amount of fifty lakh rupees or more for such financial year.

- (14) For the purposes of computing the period of limitation as specified under sub-rule (12) and sub-rule (13), any stay on such assessment pursuant to an order or injunction of any court, shall be excluded.
- (15) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (12) and sub-rule (13), assessment of authorisation fee or of spectrum charges linked to AGR may be carried out at any time pursuant to any finding or direction contained in an order passed by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (16) The Central Government may, in order to ensure proper and accurate assessment, verification and settlement of authorisation fee, spectrum charges linked to AGR and any other charges paid, issue appropriate directions to authorised entities, in respect of any telecommunication service, in relation to accounts and audit of authorised entities, and an authorised entity shall comply with such directions.

30. Set Off

- (1) Any sum of money or claim payable by an authorised entity to the Central Government, under the terms of authorisation or assignment, may be deducted or adjusted by the Central Government against any amount or sum of money then due, or which may become due to an authorised entity under the authorisation or assignment at any time thereafter, including any guarantee, which can be converted into money.
- (2) The Central Government shall, subsequent to any action taken under sub-rule (1), inform an authorised entity of such set-off.

31. Recovery of dues

Without prejudice to other modes of recovery, any amount due to the Central Government by an authorised entity under these rules, if not paid, shall be recovered as an arrear of land revenue.

CHAPTER 5: TECHNICAL AND OPERATING CONDITIONS

32. Telecommunication Network

- (1) An authorised entity having an authorisation to provide main telecommunication service, may establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication network and may also possess radio equipment, conforming to the scope of the authorisation, without requiring any separate authorisation under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 3 or under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Act respectively:

Provided that in respect of right to assignment and use of spectrum, rule 19 of these rules shall apply.

- (2) An authorised entity shall design, engineer, establish, operate, maintain or expand the telecommunication network using any technology for providing telecommunication services pursuant to its authorisation in accordance with the Act, and rules thereunder, and shall ensure that such telecommunication equipment, telecommunication identifier and telecommunication network used, and telecommunication services provided are in conformity with applicable standards and conformity assessment measures, including those notified under section 19 of the Act and TRAI regulations relating to standards of Quality of Service (QoS):

Provided that the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency may carry out performance tests on authorised entity's telecommunication network or systems to ascertain that such telecommunication network or systems meets the specified Quality of Service (QoS) standards.

- (3) An authorised entity shall synchronise its telecommunication network's system clock with the national clock as may be specified by the Central Government, and any standards notified by the Central Government in this regard.
- (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of these rules, the authorised entity shall design, engineer, establish, operate, maintain or expand the telecommunication network and provide telecommunication services, at any time, in specified geographical area, if, in the opinion of the Central Government, it is necessary or expedient to do so in public interest, or in the interest of national security, or for the proper conduct of the telecommunication, or in the event of national emergency, or in the event of war or low intensity conflict, as may be directed by the Central Government.
- (5) An authorised entity shall, in the manner as may be specified on the portal, provide the details of the technology proposed to be deployed by it for provision of telecommunication services, to the Central Government.
- (6) An authorised entity shall furnish all technical details of telecommunication services and the associated telecommunication network, to the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency, in such manner and at such times as may be required pursuant to any direction issued by the Central Government in this regard.

- (7) An authorised entity shall supply all tools, test instruments, and other accessories and extend necessary support to the Central Government, or the relevant authorised agency, for conducting tests on the telecommunication network and of the telecommunication services, at any time within the duration of authorisation.
- (8) An authorised entity shall make its own arrangements, including in respect of Right of Way (RoW), for establishing telecommunication networks and shall be solely responsible for the establishment, maintenance, operation, expansion and commissioning of necessary infrastructure, telecommunication equipment and systems, and all aspects of its telecommunication network:
- Provided that*, an authorised entity may take telecommunication network, telecommunication infrastructure, or telecommunication resources, as the case may be, on mutually agreed terms from other authorised entities holding the relevant authorisations under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Act;
- Provided further that*, an authorised entity may share the telecommunication infrastructure and telecommunication network, as permitted under these rules.
- Provided also that*, non-availability of RoW or delays in obtaining RoW permission by an authorised entity, shall not be a cause or ground for non-fulfilment of the roll-out obligations, or non-compliance with any other obligations under these rules.
- (9) Where an authorised entity requires RoW for establishing its telecommunication network, it shall not, either directly or through its facility provider, enter into any agreement for exclusive grant of RoW with the person having the right to grant such RoW.
- (10) An authorised entity shall adhere to any plans as notified by the Central Government, from time to time, including the National Numbering Plan and the National Frequency Allocation Plan.
- (11) The telecommunication network taken: (a) as a service from other authorised entities, authorised under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Act, or (b) on lease or hire from any other authorised entity or space segment provider authorised by the Department of Space or IN-SPACe, or any other office so authorised by the Central Government for this purpose, or (c) on sharing basis from any other authorised entity, as per the applicable rules, shall be treated as part of the telecommunication network of an authorised entity for the purposes of provisioning of telecommunication services and compliance of the terms and conditions of the authorisation.
- (12) An authorised entity while establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding wireless telecommunication network shall conform to the electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure norms notified by the Central Government for this purpose and shall conduct self-assessment of each base station for EMF exposure compliance in accordance with applicable standards and conformity assessment measures, including those notified by the Central Government under section 19 of the Act and provide self-certification, in the form and manner as specified on the portal, to the Central Government.
- (13) An authorised entity shall make available on its website the coverage details, including geographical area wise details of availability, of all types of its telecommunication networks, including wireline telecommunication network, and telecommunication services to users in such manner, as may be specified.
- (14) An authorised entity shall adhere to the applicable notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, issued by the Central Government in respect of the following:
- (a) adoption of Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) for powering the telecommunication network;
 - (b) deployment of energy efficient telecommunication equipment;
 - (c) reduction of carbon footprint;
 - (d) preferential market access (PMA) for procurement of indigenously manufactured telecommunication equipment;
 - (e) IPv6 implementation;
 - (f) enrolment of test users and testing of its telecommunication network, before the commercial launch of telecommunication services;
 - (g) strengthening of the telecommunication network security; and
 - (h) disposal of the radio equipment.

33. Location of Telecommunication Network Elements

- (1) An authorised entity shall provide location details of all telecommunication network elements to the Central Government, in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal, along with their mapping on Geographic Information System (GIS).
- (2) Any installation of telecommunication equipment or establishment of telecommunication network, in security sensitive areas as may be specified by the Central Government, shall be undertaken only with the prior written approval of the Central Government, obtained by the authorised entity pursuant to an application made in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal.
- (3) An authorised entity shall ensure that:
 - (a) all systems of its telecommunication network,
 - (i) either owned, or taken as a service from an entity authorised under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Act, or
 - (ii) on lease or hire or sharing basis from an entity authorised under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Act,

are located within its service areas of authorisation for the purpose of provisioning of telecommunication service permitted under the scope of the authorisation:

Provided that in cases where telecommunication network is taken as a service from a cloud-hosted telecommunication network (CTN) provider, satellite earth station gateway provider, or satellite communication network provider authorised under clause (b) of sub-section (1) section 3 of the Act, the systems of such telecommunication network may be located anywhere in India; and
 - (b) all data and information associated with its telecommunication network specified in clause (a), shall be stored within India.
- (4) The precise delineation of geographical borders taken by an authorised entity for the purpose of defining service area of authorisation along international borders, if any, shall comply with the borders in maps provided by the Survey of India, and any modification thereof shall be subject to specific prior written approval of the Central Government.

34. Sharing of telecommunication network and infrastructure

- (1) An authorised entity having different authorisations under section 3 of the Act may share its telecommunication infrastructure, telecommunication equipment, or any other system of its telecommunication network for providing telecommunication services under such authorisations subject to the prior approval requirement, as applicable, under these rules.
- (2) An authorised entity may enter into mutual agreements with any other authorised entity for sharing its telecommunication infrastructure, telecommunication equipment, or any other system of its telecommunication network, except for core telecommunication network, and lawful interception and monitoring (LIM) facilities and the lawful interception system (LIS):

Provided that, such authorised entity shall, prior to entering into such agreement, ensure that the other authorised entity is eligible to obtain such telecommunication infrastructure, telecommunication equipment, or any other system of its telecommunication network:

Provided further that any such mutual agreement shall not absolve either of the authorised entities from complying with the terms and conditions of their respective authorisations.
- (3) An authorised entity may be permitted to share its core telecommunication network elements pertaining to access service with other authorised entities, with the prior written permission of the Central Government, obtained by such authorised entity pursuant to an application made in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal:

Provided that the Central Government shall consider granting such permission subject to the condition *inter-alia* that such permission shall not result in less than two core telecommunication networks in a given service area.
- (4) An authorised entity may be permitted to share its own lawful interception and monitoring (LIM) facilities and the lawful interception system (LIS) with other authorised entities with the prior written approval of the Central Government.

35. Telecommunication Network Interconnection and Peering among NSOs

- (1) A NSO may interconnect or peer its telecommunication network with the telecommunication network of any other NSO.
- (2) A NSO shall ensure that interconnection and peering with the telecommunication network of any other NSO is undertaken and maintained in accordance with the terms and conditions of interconnections and peering under applicable rules or regulations.
- (3) A NSO, while undertaking interconnection or peering with the telecommunication network of any other NSO, shall ensure:
 - (a) that transmission links for interconnection or peering meet relevant standards and interface requirements (IR), including those notified under section 19 of the Act;
 - (b) that interconnection and peering, as required, with the telecommunication networks of another NSO, is established on IP interface for carrying IP based traffic, as per the standards, including those notified under section 19 of the Act:

Provided that a NSO shall convert circuit switched traffic to IP based traffic before sending circuit switched traffic to the telecommunication networks of another NSO;
 - (c) establishment and maintenance of one or more points of interconnection (POIs) and peering of sufficient capacity as are reasonably required for transmission and reception of messages in conformity with the QoS regulations prescribed by TRAI or standards and conformity assessment measures as may be notified by Central Government for this purpose; and
 - (d) that interconnection and peering is technically compatible and effective and is in compliance with all applicable orders, directions, guidelines, and regulations, as may be issued by TRAI under the TRAI Act.
- (4) The interconnection agreements between NSOs, including the charges for accessing other telecommunication networks for inter-network calls or messages, shall be based on mutual agreements between such NSOs and shall conform to the applicable orders, directions, guidelines, and regulations, issued by the TRAI under the TRAI Act.
- (5) A NSO shall update the details of points of interconnection (POIs) and interconnection and peering agreements in the form and manner, as may be specified on the portal.
- (6) Where a NSO's authorisation is the subject of revocation, surrender or expiry, the NSO which has an agreement for interconnection and peering with such NSO, shall disconnect any interconnection or peering, and withdraw such telecommunication resources on the effective date of revocation, surrender or expiry.
- (7) Interconnection of leased circuits with public telecommunication networks including PSTN, PLMN, GMPCS network, Internet, or internet telephony network shall not be permitted.

36. Monitoring facilities and suspension of telecommunication services

- (1) An authorised entity shall establish all necessary means and facilities at its own cost for the application of provisions of sub-section (2) of section 20 of the Act.
- (2) Nothing contained in these rules shall be deemed to adversely affect anything provided or laid pursuant to the Act or any other applicable law.

37. Commercial launch of telecommunication services

- (1) An authorised entity shall notify to the Central Government and TRAI the proposed date of commencement of provision of telecommunication service.
- (2) An authorised entity shall charge the tariff for the telecommunication service in accordance with the tariff orders, directions, guidelines, or decisions, issued by TRAI for this purpose and shall fulfil requirements including publication of tariff, notification of tariff to TRAI and provision of information to users, as directed by TRAI.
- (3) An authorised entity shall conduct self-audit of lawful interception system and lawful interception and monitoring facilities, as per the specified test schedule and test procedure (TSTP), and provide a self-certification of such testing, in the form and manner as specified on the portal, to the Central Government, before commencement of any telecommunication service in the service area of authorisation.
- (4) An authorised entity shall intimate to the Central Government and TRAI the date of commencement of telecommunication service within fifteen days of such commencement.

- (5) An authorised entity shall, within ninety days from the date of commencement of telecommunication service to users, successfully demonstrate the requisite monitoring facilities to the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency.

38. Provisioning of Telecommunication Service

- (1) An authorised entity shall:

- (a) prior to commencement of telecommunication service to users, notify and publicise the details of process and procedure through which any user can register the demand or make a request for telecommunication services;
- (b) without any discrimination, register the demand for telecommunication services from any user in the service area and where feasible, provide telecommunication services to such user, unless otherwise directed by the Central Government;
- (c) not discriminate between users registered for its telecommunication services with regard to commercial principles for provision of telecommunication services;
- (d) maintain a transparent and open to inspection, waiting list of users, whose request for provision of telecommunication services is pending, in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal;
- (e) clearly define the scope of each type of telecommunication service to user(s), at the time of registration of demand and enrolment of user(s);
- (f) ensure that the user terminal is operated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the authorisation, and relevant notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, as may be specified by Central Government for this purpose;
- (g) issue or cause to be issued, in its own name, bills to its users for use of the telecommunication service with adequate details to ensure satisfaction of the users about the genuineness of the bill, collection of revenue, ensure timely treatment of user complaints, and attending to claims;
- (h) maintain necessary records of the itemised bills for the billing cycles as may be specified by the Central Government or TRAI for this purpose;
- (i) offer regular itemised billing to its users wherever applicable and shall be responsible to its users, fulfilling their obligations in this regard;
- (j) notify to users in writing, all the policies and arrangements with respect to repair, fault rectification, compensation, or refunds; and
- (k) ensure the Quality of Service (QoS) in conformity with applicable standards and conformity assessment measures, including those notified under section 19 of the Act and TRAI regulations relating to standards of Quality of Service (QoS).

- (2) The Central Government may specify restrictions on the use of main telecommunication services in areas falling near the international borders of the territory of India, the Line of Control, the Line of Actual Control of India, or any other areas as may be specified by the Central Government:

Provided that in such restricted areas, the Central Government may allow the use of main telecommunication services to specified users and the authorised entity shall facilitate the same based on directions from the Central Government.

- (3) An authorised entity may undertake the sale, hire, purchase, lease or rent of user terminals, and the users shall be given the option to obtain the user terminal from any source that meets the standards notified under section 19 of the Act, in this regard by the Central Government.
- (4) For the provisioning of telecommunication services to its users, an authorised entity may obtain telecommunication identifiers pursuant to sub-section (8) or sub-section (9) of section 3 of the Act.
- (5) An authorised entity may, for the last mile linkage, use the cable network of a cable operator registered under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (7 of 1995).
- (6) An authorised entity shall ensure availability of telecommunication network and telecommunication services, in any area of public importance and for such duration, as specified in notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, issued by the Central Government, from time to time.
- (7) An authorised entity shall ensure continuity of the telecommunication services that it is offering to its users unless the authorisation is revoked, suspended or curtailed, to the extent of such curtailment, by the Central Government.

- (8) Where an authorised entity seeks to discontinue provision of one or more, but not all, telecommunication services to its users, the following provisions shall apply:
- (a) An authorised entity shall submit an application to the Central Government in the form and manner as specified on the portal, at least sixty days prior to the intended date of discontinuation of the relevant telecommunication service, together with reasons for such intended discontinuation;
 - (b) the Central Government may, within a period of thirty days of receipt of such application: (i) approve such application; or (ii) reject such application on grounds of public interest or national security or due to occurrence of national emergency or war;
 - (c) in the event the Central Government does not either approve or reject such application within the time specified, the application shall be deemed to have been approved;
 - (d) pursuant to an approval under sub-clause (b) or (c), an authorised entity shall issue a notice of discontinuation of the relevant telecommunication service, to users of such telecommunication service, at least thirty days in advance of the intended date of discontinuation, clearly stating the options available to such users, including that of MNP, wherever applicable; and
 - (e) the effective date of discontinuation of the relevant telecommunication service shall be the thirty-first day counted from the date of issuance of notice under sub-clause (d), and an authorised entity shall refund to the user the balance amount including security deposit, if any, available with an authorised entity within a period of thirty days from the effective date of discontinuation of telecommunication service:

Provided that this sub-rule (8) shall not be applicable for any discontinuation of telecommunication services pursuant to revocation or suspension of telecommunication services by the Central Government under the Act or rule 21 of these rules or surrender of the authorisation under rule 23 of these rules.

- (9) An authorised entity shall establish and publicise necessary mechanisms including an online mechanism to enable users to register any grievance pertaining to the telecommunication service and to redress such grievances, in such manner as may be specified by TRAI and prescribed by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Act.
- (10) Any dispute with regard to the provision of telecommunication service shall be a matter only between the user and an authorised entity and an authorised entity shall duly notify this to the user before providing the telecommunication service, and the Central Government shall not bear any liability or responsibility in the matter.
- (11) An authorised entity shall indemnify the Central Government against all claims, costs, charges or damages arising from any claims from users for any reason whatsoever.
- (12) An authorised entity shall, while providing any telecommunication resource to another authorised entity or the entity exempted from the requirement of authorisation under sub-section (3) of section (3) of the Act, satisfy itself that such entity is eligible to obtain such telecommunication resource.
- (13) An authorised entity shall, while obtaining any telecommunication resource from another authorised entity, satisfy itself that such authorised entity is eligible to provide such telecommunication resource.

39. Relaxations and exemptions

- (1) Where an authorised entity provides some, but not all, telecommunication services within the scope of its authorisation, it may apply to the Central Government, with justification, for appropriate exemptions or relaxations from the applicability of specified rules.
- (2) The Central Government may, after consideration of the application received under sub-rule (1), communicate to the authorised entity such exemptions or relaxations from such rules as it may determine are not applicable to the relevant telecommunication services specified in such application.

40. Right to inspect and undertake assessments

- (1) The Central Government, may, for the purposes of monitoring compliance with these rules, after issuing a reasonable notice to an authorised entity in this regard:
- (a) access and inspect the sites where telecommunication equipment and telecommunication network are established for provision of telecommunication service, including within a user's premises;
 - (b) audit processes or systems established by the authorised entity for compliance of these rules:

Provided that, no notice shall be required to be provided to an authorised entity if the Central Government considers that immediate action is necessary or expedient in public interest.

Provided further that the Central Government, may appoint an authorised agency to audit processes or systems established by the authorised entity for compliance of these rules.

- (2) An authorised entity shall provide the necessary facilities and support to facilitate the audit and inspection as required under sub-rule (1).

41. Confidentiality of information

- (1) An authorised entity shall not employ bulk encryption equipment for telecommunication in its telecommunication network.
- (2) The Central Government may evaluate any encryption equipment connected to an authorised entity's telecommunication network.
- (3) An authorised entity shall, prior to commencement of telecommunication service, confirm in writing to the Central Government that an authorised entity has taken all necessary steps to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and policy to protect data privacy and confidentiality of user information, including by its employees and consultants.
- (4) An authorised entity shall, subject to the terms and conditions of the authorisation, take all necessary steps to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of any information of a user and its business, to whom it provides the telecommunication service or from whom it has acquired such information by virtue of the telecommunication service being provided and shall endeavour to ensure that:
 - (a) no authorised entity or any person acting on its behalf, seeks such information other than what is necessary, for the purpose of providing telecommunication;
 - (b) no authorised entity or any person acting on its behalf, divulges or uses any such information except as may be necessary in the course of providing telecommunication service to the user:

Provided that sub-rule (4) shall not apply where:

- (i) the information relates to a specific user and that user has consented in writing to such information being divulged or used, and such information is divulged or used in accordance with the terms of that consent; or
 - (ii) the information is already accessible to the public and otherwise known.
- (5) Notwithstanding anything stated in sub-rule (4), an authorised entity shall, upon being directed by the Central Government in the public interest, or for telecom cybersecurity, enable the Central Government access to and utilization of such data in the manner, as may be specified, for this purpose.
- (6) An authorised entity shall not share any information relating to its telecommunication network with any other person except with the prior written approval of the Central Government:

Provided that no such approval shall be required for providing such details of the telecommunication network, as may be required by its telecommunication equipment suppliers.

42. Services during Public Emergency, Public Safety and Disaster Management

- (1) The Central Government shall, in accordance with clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 20 of the Act, provide for appropriate mechanism to ensure that messages of a user or group of users authorised for response and recovery during public emergency are routed on priority.
- (2) An authorised entity shall, for the purposes of disaster management, ensuring public safety, or providing emergency response services, follow the notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, as may be specified by the Central Government.
- (3) An authorised entity shall:
 - (a) facilitate dissemination of alert messages through SMS or cell broadcast or any other means as may be directed by Central or State Government or any officer authorised in this behalf by the Central or State Government;
 - (b) implement intra-circle roaming and national roaming for disaster management services, emergency services, public safety services, public utility services or any other type of user messages as per the guidelines or directions of the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency.
- (4) The Central Government may issue such notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, to authorised entities as are necessary to establish disaster resilient telecommunication network and facilitate study on the resilience of the telecommunication network, including information related to the resilience of such telecommunication network.

CHAPTER 6: SECURITY CONDITIONS**Part A: General Security Conditions****43. Lawful Interception and Monitoring**

- (1) An authorised entity shall, at its own cost provide suitable lawful interception systems and lawful interception and monitoring facilities in accordance with the instructions specified for this purpose by the Central Government.
- (2) An authorised entity shall ensure provision of necessary hardware and software in its lawful interception systems and lawful interception and monitoring facilities to enable the relevant authorised agency to undertake lawful interception and monitoring from a central location, if so, required by the relevant authorised agency.
- (3) An authorised entity shall ensure that the lawful interception system and lawful interception and monitoring facilities are integrated with the Centralised Monitoring System (CMS) or Internet Monitoring System (IMS), as applicable, prior to the commercial launch of telecommunication services.
- (4) An authorised entity shall, at its own cost, provide appropriately dimensioned bandwidth up to designated points as specified by the Central Government for establishing connectivity to the Centralised Monitoring System.
- (5) The relevant authorised agency may maintain monitoring centre for lawful interception either within its own premises or in the premises of an authorised entity:

Provided that, in cases where the monitoring centre is located at the premises of the relevant authorised agency, such authorised agency shall bear the cost of its end hardware and bandwidth from the location of relevant telecommunication equipment of the telecommunication network of an authorised entity, or any other designated points, as the case may be, to its monitoring centre.

Provided further that in cases where the monitoring centre is located at the premises of an authorised entity, such authorised entity shall extend the support as may be required by the relevant authorised agency, including provision of space and access to the authorised representatives of such authorised agency.

- (6) An authorised entity shall comply with the Telecommunications (Procedures and Safeguards for Lawful Interception of Messages) Rules, 2024, and notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, issued by the Central Government under such rules.
- (7) An authorised entity shall familiarize and train the officers of the Central Government and authorised agencies in respect of relevant operations and features of its lawful interception system and lawful interception and monitoring facilities, as directed from time to time by the Central Government.
- (8) An authorised entity shall provide access to its telecommunication network and other facilities as well as to books of accounts to the relevant authorised agency for the purpose of monitoring traffic.

44. Management of an authorised entity

- (1) An authorised entity shall ensure the following:
 - (a) Majority of directors on the board of such authorised entity shall be Indian citizens;
 - (b) The chief officer in charge of telecommunication network, officers in charge of core telecommunication network, and system administrators shall be resident Indian citizens.
 - (c) The Chief Telecommunication Security Officer shall, consistent with the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024, be a resident Indian citizen;
 - (d) The nodal officers notified under the Telecommunications (Procedures and Safeguards for Lawful Interception of Messages) Rules, 2024, and Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024, as well as any other officer dealing with the subject matter of these rules, shall be resident Indian citizens.
- (2) An authorised entity shall ensure security vetting by the Ministry of Home Affairs prior to the appointment of any foreign nationals to the positions of the Chairman, Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and such security vetting shall be continued on an annual basis for the duration of such appointment.
- (3) An authorised entity shall ensure security vetting by the Ministry of Home Affairs of the foreign nationals prior to the deployment of such persons for the establishment operation, maintenance or expansion of its telecommunication network.

- (4) An authorised entity shall apply in the form and manner as specified on the portal, for the security vetting provided in sub-rule (2) and sub-rule (3), and the decision of the Ministry of Home Affairs shall be binding on such authorised entity.

45. Enrolment of users and activation of telecommunication services

- (1) Each authorised entity shall ensure that telecommunication services are provided only subject to verification of the identity of users of such services, as set forth under these rules.
- (2) In respect of telecommunication services notified under sub-section (7) of section 3 of the Act, an authorised entity shall verify the identity of users before enrolling such users for provisioning of telecommunication services, and shall re-verify such identity when existing users request updating of telecommunication services, in accordance with the Telecommunications (User Identification) Rules, 2025, and in compliance with notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, as may be specified by the Central Government for user identity verification and re-verification.
- (3) In respect of telecommunication services other than those notified under sub-section (7) of section 3 of the Act, an authorised entity shall verify the identity of users before enrolling such users for provisioning of telecommunication services, and shall re-verify such identity when existing users request updating of telecommunication services, through a method of verification as determined by such entity, and in compliance with notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, as may be specified by the Central Government for user identity verification and re-verification.
- (4) An authorised entity shall, at the time of enrolment of a user, collect and maintain the details of information of the user in the form and manner as may be specified by the Central Government for each type of telecommunication service.
- (5) An authorised entity shall, prior to activation of telecommunication service in respect of a user, comply with the notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, as may be specified by the Central Government for this purpose.
- (6) An authorised entity shall take measures to create awareness among users, at regular intervals, about the proper and *bona fide* use of the telecommunication services and telecommunication identifiers.
- (7) An authorised entity shall inform a user that the SIM issued to such user, is non-transferable:
Provided that the SIM may be transferred to the blood relatives or legal heirs of the user in accordance with the Telecommunications (User Identification) Rules, 2025 and as per the notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, as may be specified by the Central Government.
- (8) An authorised entity shall maintain an updated database of its users in the form and manner as may be specified for this purpose, and provide access to such database to the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency.
- (9) An authorised entity shall provide the traceable identity of each user pursuant to directions in this regard, to the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency:
Provided that, in case of providing roaming services to foreign users, the authorised entity shall endeavour to obtain traceable identity of such users from the relevant telecommunication service provider outside India, as a part of its roaming agreement.
- (10) An authorised entity shall comply with any order or direction under the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024, relating to telecommunication services and telecommunication identifiers of users.
- (11) An authorised entity shall, in addition to the provisions of this rule, also comply with the provisions of rule 46 in respect of business users, and rule 47 in respect of users who are natural persons.

46. Additional conditions for enrolment and activation of telecommunication services for business users

- (1) For the purposes of this rule:
 - (a) “business connection” means one or more connections for a specified type of telecommunication services, provided by one or more authorised entities to a business user.
 - (b) “business user” means a user who:
 - (i) is a company or a partnership or sole proprietorship registered under applicable law; or
 - (ii) possesses a trade or business license or permit, by whatever name called, issued under applicable law.

- (c) “end user” of a business connection means a user who is a natural person who uses a specified type of telecommunication service provided to a business user.
- (2) An authorised entity shall:
- (a) undertake due diligence and record in writing the reasons provided by the business user for seeking a business connection;
 - (b) prior to provision of any business connection:
 - (i) verify such details and collect such documents, in addition to those required pursuant to rule 45, as may be specified by the Central Government for this purpose;
 - (ii) conduct physical verification of the premises where such business user and business connection is located; and
 - (iii) verify the identity of the authorised representative of the business user, and of each end user, in accordance with the sub-rule (2) or sub-rule (3) of rule 45, as applicable;
 - (c) upon activation of a business connection:
 - (i) inspect, at a minimum of six-monthly intervals, the premises where such connection of the business user is located, to verify the *bona fide* use of the business connections, and maintain and preserve for a minimum period of two years, the record of such inspection, for verification by the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency; and
 - (ii) maintain an updated database of business users, in the form and manner as may be specified for this purpose, and provide access to such database to the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency.
 - (d) in the event that such business user has ceased to exist, disconnect each of the business connections of such user and update the same in the relevant database in accordance with the applicable rules, as well as notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, as may be specified by the Central Government:
- Provided that* the Central Government may specify exemptions from applicability of any of the provisions set forth in this sub-rule in respect of specific categories of users or types of telecommunication services.
- (3) Where a business connection involves connection of leased circuit, internet leased line, SIP trunks, PRI lines or SMS gateway links at the premises of a business user, the authorised entity shall, in addition to the provisions of sub-rule (2), also comply with the following:
- (a) prior to activation of telecommunication services, undertake an assessment and record the details of all telecommunication links that are connected with PSTN, NLD, ILD, PLMN, GMPCS networks, other internet leased lines (ILL), as well as other types of telecommunication links as may be available with such business user, along with the reasons provided by the business user for such links;
 - (b) communicate and specify the activities that are prohibited for such business user, in the CAF;
 - (c) inspect the premises of the business user within fifteen days of activation to check misuse or interconnection of ILL with such telecommunication links; and
 - (d) ensure that a diagram of the telecommunication network along with details of telecommunication links at the premises of each user is available with the authorised entity, and provide the same for inspection as may be required by the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency.
- (4) If an authorised entity detects any misuse of any business connection, including leased circuit, internet leased line, SIP trunks, PRI lines or SMS gateway links, during physical inspection or otherwise, it shall immediately disconnect such telecommunication service, and initiate appropriate proceedings under applicable law against such business user, and shall communicate to the Central Government in writing of action taken in this regard within twenty-four hours of detection of such misuse.

47. Additional conditions for enrolment and activation of telecommunication services for natural persons

- (1) Each authorised entity, individually and collectively with other authorised entities, providing specified type of telecommunication services, shall not issue a type of telecommunication service connection for a user who is a natural person, in excess of the threshold number, as may be specified by the Central Government, in respect of a specified type of telecommunication service:

Provided that the Central Government may specify different thresholds applicable for users in different service areas.

- (2) Where a natural person seeks leased circuit, internet leased line, SIP trunks, PRI lines or SMS gateway links, the provisions of sub-rule (2), sub-rule (3) and sub-rule (4) of rule 46 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

48. Data to be located in India

An authorised entity shall not transfer the following information to any person or place outside India:

- (a) Accounting information relating to a user, except for international roaming and billing:

Provided that this shall not restrict any financial disclosure as may be required under these rules or as under applicable law.

- (b) User information, except in respect of information pertaining to: (i) IPLC users, and (ii) foreign users using authorised entity's telecommunication network while roaming.

49. Maintenance of records

- (1) An authorised entity shall:

- (a) ensure that all documentation, including software details, are obtained from manufacturer, vendor, or supplier of telecommunication equipment and systems in english language and preserve such documentation;

- (b) maintain a record of all software updates and changes, and details of major software updates and changes, as determined by the Central Government, shall be provided to the Central Government within fifteen days of completion of such updates and changes, in the manner as may be specified on the portal for this purpose:

Provided that clause (b) is without prejudice to the obligations of an authorised entity in respect of critical telecommunication infrastructure under the Telecommunications (Critical Telecommunication Infrastructure) Rules, 2024.

- (c) obtain the details of the supply chain of the telecommunication equipment and systems, from the manufacturer, vendor, or supplier of the telecommunication equipment and systems at the time of procurement and keep a record of the same;

- (d) keep a record of operation and maintenance procedure in the form of a manual;

- (e) maintain and store records of all operations and command logs, which shall include the details of command given along with the details of executing authority, date, time and place, in a manner so as to enable access to the Central Government or authorised agencies: (i) on real-time basis, for a minimum period of twelve months; and (ii) on a non-real time basis in digital mode for the next twenty four months.

- (2) An authorised entity shall maintain all commercial records, Subscriber Data Record (SDR), Call Data Record (CDR) by any name referred, including Call Detail Record, Exchange Detail Record (EDR), IP Detail Record or IP Data Record (IPDR) and any other similar records for all types of telecommunication services, in the manner as may be specified, for at least two years unless directed otherwise by the Central Government:

Provided that, the Central Government may direct an authorised entity to maintain the records specified in sub-rule (2), for a period longer than two years, in respect of user, as may be identified.

- (3) An authorised entity shall provide the details of the records maintained under sub-rule (2), to the Central Government, or the relevant authorised agency, in the manner as may be specified, for this purpose.

50. Domestic traffic not to be routed outside India

An authorised entity shall ensure that domestic traffic is not hauled or routed through any place outside India:

Provided that, usage of satellites and domestic submarine cables for serving domestic traffic without transiting through any country other than India, shall not be treated as hauling or routing domestic traffic outside India.

51. Securing information transacted through telecommunication network

- (1) An authorised entity shall take adequate and timely measures to ensure that the information and messages communicated through the telecommunication network is secure and protected.

- (2) An authorised entity shall ensure privacy of messages communicated through its telecommunication network and that unauthorised interception of messages does not take place:
Provided that, when an authorised entity provides records of messages and other data from its telecommunication network to the Central Government or authorised agencies, upon receipt of a direction in exercise of powers under the applicable law, then such records shall be provided in an intelligible format and not in an encrypted manner.
- (3) Without prejudice to the obligations under the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024, an authorised entity shall implement appropriate fraud management and prevention system using the latest available technologies, including Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI), to detect misuse of telecommunication resources including clandestine or illegal telecommunications networks, any threat to telecom cyber security, and users obtaining telecommunication services fraudulently, and shall comply with any directions, as may be specified by the Central Government, for this purpose.
- (4) An authorised entity shall, when so required by the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency, provide information and support as necessary in respect of any investigation for detection of misuse of telecommunication resources or establishment of any illegal telecommunication network.
- (5) An authorised entity shall provide the details of all users and telecommunication identifiers detected through such fraud management and prevention system to the Central Government in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal and shall take action including filing of police complaints and First Information Reports against those found involved in such activities.

52. Calling line identification

- (1) An authorised entity shall:
 - (a) provide for and maintain facility for ensuring provision of Calling Line Identification (CLI) and ensure that the CLI is not tampered with;
 - (b) present the CLI to users in the manner as may be specified on the portal; and
 - (c) put in place necessary system for identification and prevention of calls with false or tampered or spoofed CLI in their telecommunication network and comply with the directions and standards specified by the Central Government in this regard.
- (2) An authorised entity shall provide the geographical location of any user at a given point of time on request by the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency:
Provided that, in case of terrestrial mobile services, location details including latitude and longitude of base transceiver station shall also be provided.
- (3) An authorised entity shall ensure that its telecommunication network supports malicious call identification.

53. Prevention of use of telecommunication network for unauthorised or unlawful activities

An authorised entity shall ensure that its telecommunication network be used only for providing authorised telecommunication services to bona fide users only and is not used for undertaking any activities, or commissioning any action, that is an offence under the Act, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 or any other law for the time being in force, including laws prohibiting crimes against the State.

54. Trusted Sources and Trusted Products

- (1) For the purpose of this rule, the designated authority shall be the National Cyber Security Coordinator of the Central Government, who shall determine the categories of telecommunication equipment for which the security requirements related to trusted sources and trusted products are applicable, and specify the same on its website for this purpose.
- (2) The designated authority shall specify the trusted sources along with the associated trusted products for the categories of telecommunication equipment as specified under sub-rule (1).
- (3) The designated authority may specify the procedure for inclusion of telecommunication equipment in the list of trusted sources and trusted products.
- (4) The designated authority may also specify a list of persons from whom no procurement of telecommunication equipment or associated products can be undertaken.
- (5) An authorised entity shall procure trusted products from trusted sources, as determined by the designated authority under sub-rule (2), and use or connect only such products in its telecommunication network.
- (6) An authorised entity shall, prior to rolling out its telecommunication network, register itself on the website

specified by the designated authority for this purpose, and provide relevant details relating to the telecommunication network or telecommunication equipment, as may be required by such authority.

- (7) An authorised entity shall, prior to deployment in the telecommunication network, comply with conditions for procurement of telecommunication equipment and associated products, or categories thereof as specified by the designated authority.
- (8) An authorised entity shall, prior to the procurement of telecommunication equipment and related products, or categories thereof, for its telecommunication network or any upgradation or expansion thereof, adhere to the following process:
 - (a) If the designated authority has already determined telecommunication equipment and related products as trusted products and their corresponding trusted sources under sub-rule (2), the authorised entity shall ensure compliance with the same and submit to the designated authority and the Central Government, in the form and manner as specified for this purpose: (i) the list of telecommunication equipment and the sources from which it is planning to procure; and (ii) periodic reports of procurement of telecommunication equipment, related products and sources thereof, and the locations of deployment of the same;
 - (b) In the event clause (a) is not applicable, the authorised entity shall submit to the designated authority, the details of the telecommunication equipment and related products and their sources from which it is intending to procure the same, as per the procedure specified by the designated authority for this purpose under sub-rule (3);
 - (c) In the event the designated authority approves the telecommunication equipment and related products and their sources as submitted under clause (b) above, the authorised entity shall proceed to procure and install the same; and
 - (d) An authorised entity shall comply with notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, including the guidance for enhanced supervision and effective control of telecommunication networks, as may be issued by the designated authority or the Central Government.
- (9) An authorised entity shall provide any information relating to the telecommunication equipment deployed or being deployed in its telecommunication network, as and when sought by the Central Government or the designated authority.
- (10) An authorised entity shall submit to the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency compliance reports relating to compliance with this rule on a half-yearly basis, as on 1st January and 1st July of each year, through the portal, in the form and manner as may be specified for this purpose.
- (11) These rules shall be without prejudice to any other measure taken by the Central Government, that it may consider necessary or expedient for the purpose of national security under section 21 of the Act, which shall be binding on authorised entities.
- (12) In respect of a licensee, this rule shall be without prejudice to and does not override nor negate the obligation under its license relating to procurement of trusted products from trusted sources, which shall continue to apply till such time as the license migrates to an authorisation under the rules under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Act:

Provided that, such migration to being an authorised entity shall not affect ongoing Annual Maintenance Contracts (AMC) or their updates to telecommunication equipment as may have already been inducted into its telecommunication network prior to 15th June 2021;

Provided further that, the licensee shall, on migration of its license to being an authorised entity, seek permission from the designated authority for upgradation or expansion of telecommunication network deployed prior to 15th June 2021, utilising the telecommunication equipment not specified as a trusted product.

55. Breach of security provisions

- (1) Any civil penalty imposed under these rules for breach of security provisions on the authorised entity shall be without prejudice to any other liability and criminal proceedings under applicable law.
- (2) The Central Government may blacklist such vendor or supplier who supplied the telecommunication equipment, including hardware or software, that caused the security breach, from doing business in India.
- (3) An authorised entity shall include a provision to give effect to sub-rule (2), in the agreement signed with vendors or suppliers.

56. Prohibition of certain activities

- (1) A telecommunication network of an authorised entity established under these rules shall not be used for transmission of:
 - (a) objectionable or obscene or unauthorised message as per applicable law; or
 - (b) any other content or communication or message infringing copyright and intellectual property right in any form.
- (2) An authorised entity shall take necessary measures to prevent transmission of content or communication or message in violation of sub-rule (1), in its telecommunication network immediately upon receipt of any report, order, or direction from the Central Government, or a court order.
- (3) An authorised entity shall facilitate, without any delay, where so required by the Central Government, or the relevant authorised agency, tracing of any messages transmitted through its telecommunication network for purposes of investigation into objectionable, obscene, unauthorised, nuisance, obnoxious or malicious calls, messages, or for detection of crimes, or in the interest of national security:

Provided that any damages arising on account of an authorised entity's failure in this regard shall be payable by such authorised entity.
- (4) An authorised entity shall ensure that its employees, vendors, consultants or any other relevant person having access to the telecommunication network or any information relating to provision of telecommunication services, shall maintain secrecy and confidentiality of any confidential information divulged to, or available with an authorised entity for proper implementation of the authorisation.
- (5) An authorised entity shall ensure that its telecommunication network or installation thereof, shall not become a safety or health hazard and is not in contravention of any law and policy.

57. Providing remote access to the telecommunication network

- (1) An authorised entity may, requiring to provide remote access to its telecommunication network from a location outside India, seek the permission of the Central Government, in the form and manner specified for this purpose, providing details with regard to:
 - (a) purpose and duration of such remote access and details of the person going who shall access its telecommunication network; and
 - (b) details of the specific location of the telecommunication network within India to which remote access is sought from the specific location outside India.
- (2) The Central Government may, pursuant to an application under sub-rule (1), grant written approval subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) the remote access shall be provided only to approved locations within India from approved locations outside India, and shall be limited to the purpose as specified under such approval;
 - (b) the remote access to the telecommunication network shall not enable access to lawful interception system and lawful interception and monitoring facilities, call data records, content of messages, and any other such sensitive data, as may be specified by the Central Government for this purpose.
 - (c) the authorised entity shall provide suitable technical systems as specified by the Central Government, at the approved location in India, which is connected with the approved location outside India, to enable the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency, to access and monitor the mirror image of the information available at the approved location outside India, in accordance with the directions issued by the Central Government.
 - (d) the authorised entity shall maintain the complete audit trail of the remote access activities pertaining to the telecommunication network for a period of six months at the approved location in India, and provide such information to the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency, in accordance with the notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, issued by the Central Government.
- (3) This rule shall be without prejudice to the obligations of an authorised entity with regard to critical telecommunication infrastructure as specified under the Telecommunications (Critical Telecommunication Infrastructure) Rules, 2024.

58. General Security Conditions

- (1) An authorised entity shall be responsible for security of its telecommunications network and comply with notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, as may be issued by the Central Government in this regard.

- (2) An authorised entity shall provide facilities as may be required by the Central Government to respond to any situations of espionage, subversive acts, sabotage or any other unlawful activity, and shall comply with notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, as may be issued by the Central Government in this regard.
- (3) An authorised entity shall:
 - (a) ensure capability to suspend provision of telecommunication services in areas specified by the Central Government, subject to an accuracy as may be specified by the Central Government in respect of the boundary of the area so specified; and
 - (b) provide any facility as may be required by the Central Government to check the accuracy of the area where an authorised entity has suspended provision of telecommunication services and inspect or monitor user terminal activity within such area.
- (4) An authorised entity shall ensure adherence by all its vendors or suppliers of any directions relating to security of the telecommunication network, including providing access to an authorised entity, the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency, to inspect the hardware, software, design, development, manufacturing facility and supply chains of such vendors or suppliers, for the purpose of conducting security checks and risk assessments at any time during the supply of telecommunication equipment by such vendors or suppliers.
- (5) This rule shall be without prejudice to any other measure taken by the Central Government, that it may consider necessary or expedient for the purpose of national security under section 21 of the Act, which shall be binding on authorised entities.

-Part B: Security Conditions in respect of regulation of Point of Sale

59. Applicability of Part B of Chapter 6

Part B of Chapter 6 of these rules shall apply to telecommunication services as may be specified by the Central Government from time to time.

60. Point of Sale

- (1) For the purpose of Part B of Chapter 6 -
 - (a) “employee” means any person employed, or engaged in any manner for any or all of the PoS services, by:
 - (i) the authorised entity, or
 - (ii) an agent, franchisee or distributor of an authorised entity;
 - (b) “Point of Sale” or “PoS” means a person providing PoS services who may be:
 - (i) an agent, franchisee or distributor of an authorised entity; and
 - (ii) an employee as defined under clause (b).

Explanation: Where the PoS is an employee as specified under sub-clause (ii), such employee shall be treated as a distinct PoS.
 - (c) “PoS services” means the services relating to:
 - (i) enrolment of a user for availing of telecommunication services;
 - (ii) updating of telecommunication services;
 - (iii) distribution of SIM or user terminals; and
 - (iv) recharge and other billing activities in respect of telecommunication services.
- (2) A PoS shall be:
 - (a) a company or a partnership or sole proprietorship registered under applicable law; or
 - (b) any person possessing a trade or business license or permit, by whatever name called, issued under applicable law.

61. Obligations of authorised entity in respect of PoS

- (1) An authorised entity shall register and enter into agreements with each PoS, in accordance with this rule, for the provision of relevant PoS services:

Provided that the authorised entity shall be solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the terms and conditions set forth under these rules, including ensuring adequate verification of user prior to enrolment of such user for telecommunication services;

Provided further that, any action specified under this Part B of Chapter 6, with respect to breach or contravention by a PoS, shall be without prejudice to any action that the Central Government may initiate under the Telecommunications (Adjudication and Appeals) Rules, 2025, against an authorised entity for such breach or contravention.

- (2) The authorised entity shall, prior to entering into an agreement with a PoS, register such PoS, in the manner specified below:
 - (a) identify each PoS using documents as may be specified by the Central Government for this purpose;
 - (b) authenticate the identity of each PoS, using biometrics, in the manner as specified by the Central Government for this purpose;
 - (c) undertake physical verification of the addresses of the residence and place of business declared by a PoS, and as and when such information is updated by a PoS, and record the location coordinates of such addresses, during such physical verification; and
 - (d) where directed by the Central Government, undertake the process of police verification of a PoS, in the manner and in respect of the service area, as may be specified in such direction.
- (3) The authorised entity shall:
 - (a) maintain the details of each PoS in the form and manner as specified by the Central Government and ensure updating the contact details or any other information of such PoS, within seven days of any change in such details; and
 - (b) share the database containing details as specified in clause (a) with the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency, on a real time basis.
- (4) Upon completion of the steps specified under sub-rule (2), the authorised entity shall enter into agreement with each PoS, specifying the terms and conditions of PoS services, including:
 - (a) scope and duties of the PoS;
 - (b) the process of enrolment of users in conformity with the applicable rules as well as directions, procedures or instructions as may be specified by the Central Government, in case of PoS providing services relating to enrolment of a user for availing or updating of telecommunication services;
 - (c) area of operations of the PoS for enrolment and updating of telecommunication services of a user, which shall be limited to the service area of authorisation of the authorised entity:

Provided that where the service area of an authorised entity is the national service area, the area of operation of each PoS shall be limited to a specific geographical area, corresponding to the telecom circle or metro service area, as specified in Schedule B to these Rules;
 - (d) inter-se relationship of the PoS with another PoS, if any;
 - (e) prohibition of any transfer or assignment of such agreement;
 - (f) prohibition of any delegation of duties and obligations of such agreement; and
 - (g) consequences for violation of any term or condition of the agreement, including liquidated damages and termination of such agreement.
- (5) The authorised entity shall, subsequent to entering into an agreement under sub-rule (4):
 - (a) assign a unique PoS ID to each PoS and communicate such ID, in real time, to such PoS and all other such type of authorised entities as specified by the Central Government:

Provided that, each PoS shall be assigned only one unique PoS ID, which shall be common in respect of all authorised entities who have entered into agreements with such PoS;
 - (b) develop a mechanism for generation and sharing of such unique PoS IDs, including any such existing IDs, in real time, in a joint collaboration with other authorised entities; and
 - (c) maintain and update on a real time basis an online supply chain management system of SIM and specified type of user terminals, as well as details of movement of such SIM and user terminals from

- authorised entity to its users, and provide such details when so required by the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency.
- (6) In respect of a PoS providing PoS services limited to recharge and other billing activities, sub-rule (2), sub-rule (4) and sub-rule (5), shall not be mandatory.
 - (7) An authorised entity shall use such information technology tools as are necessary to detect and prevent any unusual or suspicious activities on part of either the PoS or the user, which may occur during the registration of PoS, enrolment of users by the PoS, or updating of telecommunication services by the PoS, and inform the details, in the form and manner as may be specified, of such PoS or user to the Central Government.
 - (8) An authorised entity shall terminate the agreement with a PoS, and block the unique PoS ID of such PoS, across all authorisation, within twenty-four hours of occurrence of any of the following circumstances:
 - (a) where the authorised entity becomes aware that any information or document provided by the PoS during the process of registration or entering into the agreement, is found to be false or forged;
 - (b) upon any direction for termination received from the Central Government.
 - (9) The authorised entity that blocks a unique PoS ID under sub-rule (8) shall:
 - (a) communicate such information to all other authorised entities across all service areas, in real time, and such other authorised entities shall also terminate their respective agreements with such PoS, within twenty-four hours of receipt of such information;
 - (b) ensure that such PoS shall not be able to enrol any user; and
 - (c) re-enrol all users that had been previously enrolled by such PoS during a specified period.
 - (10) All relevant authorised entities, in respect of termination under sub-rule (8) and sub-rule (9), shall:
 - (a) submit a report to the Central Government, detailing all actions taken in respect of termination, within three days of such termination; and
 - (b) ensure that no agreement for engagement of such PoS is made for a duration of three years thereafter, across all service areas of authorisation.
 - (11) The Central Government may, upon occurrence of any other contravention of these rules on account of actions of a PoS, other than those specified under sub-rule (8), or in the interest of national security, direct the authorised entity to take relevant action against the PoS, including issuing warnings, levying liquidated damages and terminating the services of such PoS.
 - (12) An employee of a PoS undertaking PoS services, shall be treated as a distinct PoS, and the provisions of sub-rule (2) to sub-rule (11) shall apply mutatis mutandis.
 - (13) The authorised entity shall implement directions issued under sub-rule (11) and shall bear all liabilities in this regard.
 - (14) The authorised entity shall indemnify the Central Government in respect of all claims, costs, charges, or damages that may arise in furtherance of this rule.

CHAPTER 7: SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES USING SATELLITE SYSTEM

62. Applicability of Chapter 7

This chapter shall apply to an authorised entity providing telecommunication service using satellite networks including non-terrestrial networks and GMPCS networks, and all such authorised entities shall comply with the conditions specified in this chapter, as well as other terms and conditions of such authorisation as provided under these rules.

63. Provision of telecommunication services through satellite systems

- (1) An authorised entity intending to provide telecommunication service using satellite systems, shall apply for permission of the Central Government, in the form and manner, as specified on the portal.
- (2) An authorised entity making an application under sub-rule (1) shall:
 - (a) own the relevant satellite or space segment capacity; or

- (b) enter into an agreement with a space segment provider authorised by the Department of Space or IN-SPACE, or any other office so authorised by the Central Government for this purpose, for leasing such satellite or space segment capacity; and-
- (c) ensure that such agreement entered into under clause (b) has a provision obligating the space segment provider to report any incident such as:
 - (i) unauthorised satellite signal that it may detect originating or terminating within India; and
 - (ii) unauthorised access from India of any satellite that may be under its control or operation which is being used to provide service outside India;
 to the authorised entity and in-turn, the authorised entity shall immediately report such incidents to the Central Government.
- (3) The information along with supporting documents to be provided by an authorised entity in the application made under sub-rule (1) shall include:
 - (a) details of the satellite system, the earth station gateway for each such satellite system and the associated telecommunication network, along with their location details;
 - (b) satellite or space segment capacity;
 - (c) where such capacity is leased from a space segment provider, a certified true copy of such agreement; and
 - (d) any other information as may be required by the Central Government.
- (4) The Central Government may, subject to its assessment of the application and security vetting, if required, by the appropriate authority responsible for satellite network clearance, grant permission, subject to terms and conditions as it may specify.
- (5) An authorised entity may use one or more permitted satellite systems, subject to compliance with the condition that the satellite earth station gateway for each such satellite system and the associated telecommunication network is located in India.
- (6) An authorised entity shall inform the Central Government of any changes that may occur to the agreements specified under clause (b) of sub-rule (2), and submit the revised copy of such agreement, within fifteen days of such change.
- (7) An authorised entity shall, prior to undertaking any change in the permitted satellite system, including change in frequency band, technology, number of satellites, orbits or any other configuration related to ground and space segments, apply to the Central Government for its prior written approval, in the form and manner as specified on the portal.
- (8) The Central Government may, on assessment of the application under sub-rule (7), grant its written approval to such authorised entity.

Technical and operating conditions

- (1) An authorised entity permitted to use satellite systems under rule 63 shall comply with the following technical and operating conditions:
 - (a) ensure that all traffic on the satellite network originating from or terminating on the user terminals located in India, shall pass through an authorised entity's satellite earth station gateway and associated telecommunication network located in India;
 - (b) ensure that no traffic originating from or terminating at a user terminal located in India is routed via satellite earth station gateways located outside India either directly or through inter satellite communication links, including during failure of satellite earth station gateway in India or as part of telecommunication network optimization;
 - (c) ensure that the user traffic shall not be mirrored by an authorised entity to any satellite system or server located outside India through inter satellite communication links or through any other means;
 - (d) provide real time traffic monitoring facility to ensure the compliance of clause (a) to (c) above;
 - (e) ensure that no direct communication shall take place between two or more user terminals through one or more satellites, without routing the user traffic through satellite earth station gateway;
 - (f) provide details relating to frequency plan to the Central Government, in the form and manner as specified on the portal, and operate the satellite network as per the frequency plan approved by the

Central Government;

- (g) provide to the Central Government, in the form and manner as specified on the portal, self-certified details of the antenna parameters along with radiation pattern results, for validation of the same;
- (h) provide any information of and conduct tests, for interference monitoring, and to take necessary steps, as directed by the Central Government, for its mitigation; and
- (i) the VSAT or any other FSS terminal used for providing backhaul link to a base station or connectivity to an internet node or any other telecommunication equipment, shall be located in the service area of an authorised entity having such base station or internet node or any other telecommunication equipment:

Provided that, the corresponding satellite earth station gateway may be located anywhere in India and the connecting link from this satellite earth station gateway to the core telecommunication network of such authorised entity using such backhaul link or connectivity may be established as per the applicable rules.

- (2) An authorised entity may, subject to the prior written approval of the Central Government, for which an application may be submitted in the form and manner, and subject to such terms and conditions, as may be specified on the portal:
 - (a) use its satellite earth station gateway established in India for providing telecommunication services to users located outside India, subject to: (i) obtaining all clearances (by whatever name called) as may be required to provide such telecommunication services in the relevant jurisdiction where the user is located, and (ii) compliance with such directions as the Central Government may issue, from time to time; or
 - (b) enter into arrangements with entities providing telecommunication services, in areas outside India, after obtaining all clearances (by whatever name called) as may be required to provide such telecommunication services in the relevant jurisdiction where the user is located, for enabling use of the authorised entity's satellite earth station gateway established in India for uplink and downlink of signals to and from satellites, subject to compliance with such directions as the Central Government may issue, from time to time.
- (3) The Central Government may, subject to its assessment of the application made under sub-rule (2), and security vetting, if required, by the appropriate authority responsible for satellite network clearance, grant permission as requested by the authorised entity, subject to terms and conditions as it may specify, including the following:
 - (a) the telecommunication traffic between the satellite earth station gateway established in India and foreign telecommunication network, serving the users located outside national service area, shall be confined to only the equipment comprising the satellite earth station gateway, and shall not to be transmitted into or received from a telecommunication network or user terminal located in India; and
 - (b) the telecommunication traffic between the satellite earth station gateway established in India and foreign telecommunication network, serving the users located outside national service area, shall be routed through authorised ILD gateway.
- (4) The authorised entity shall indemnify the Central Government against any and all claims that may arise from the implementation of the arrangements covered under sub-rule (2).

65. Rollout Obligations

- (1) An authorised entity, for provision of telecommunication service, may either establish its own satellite earth station gateway or use the satellite earth station gateway established by other authorised entities that are eligible for sharing such satellite earth station gateways under the terms of their respective authorisations.
- (2) An authorised entity shall rollout the telecommunication network using satellite systems and assigned spectrum, within twelve months from the date of assignment of such spectrum, as required for providing telecommunication services to users.
- (3) An authorised entity shall register with the Central Government, in the form and manner as may be specified, for verification of the compliance of rollout obligations, as per the test schedule test procedure (TSTP) specified by the Central Government.
- (4) On successful verification under sub-rule (3), the date of registration with the Central Government shall be

treated as the date of compliance of the rollout obligations.

- (5) In case of failure upon verification under sub-rule (3), an authorised entity shall re-register, after necessary corrections, and in such cases, the date of re-registration with the Central Government, on successful verification, shall be treated as the date of compliance of the rollout obligation.
- (6) Any failure to comply with the rollout obligations shall be treated as breach of terms and conditions of the authorisation and shall be dealt as per the Telecommunications (Adjudication and Appeal) Rules, 2025:
Provided that if the rollout obligations are complied with within thirty days of the expiry of the due date for complying with such obligations, the Central Government shall consider the same as fulfilment of rollout obligation, without treating it as breach of terms and conditions of the authorisation.
- (7) In case of failure to comply with the rollout obligations, in addition to imposition of civil penalty as per the Telecommunications (Adjudication and Appeal) Rules, 2025, the spectrum assignment for satellite systems, may be withdrawn in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Act.

66. Security conditions

- (1) The operation, maintenance and control facility for the satellite earth station gateway, user terminals and associated telecommunication network, shall be located in India.
- (2) An authorised entity shall ensure that the permitted satellite systems be used for providing telecommunication services for which it has been authorised and such satellite systems are not used for any unauthorised activities including surveillance and electronic warfare, or in a manner that may jeopardize the sovereignty and security of India.
- (3) An authorised entity shall ensure that in addition to the Target Intercept List (TIL) based interception and monitoring, geographic location-based interception and monitoring is also possible.
- (4) An authorised entity shall ensure that a user, registered outside India and using a user terminal of the permitted satellite system, shall register such user terminal with the authorised entity when operating in India.
- (5) An authorised entity shall ensure that any access to its telecommunication services to users shall be provided only after registering their user terminals on Equipment Identity Register (EIR) of the authorised entity:
Provided that a user terminal, brought from outside India, shall be registered on such EIR only after verifying the customs clearance obtained by the user in respect of such user terminal.
- (6) An authorised entity shall monitor the access to and use of its satellite system, and immediately report to the Central Government, in the form and manner as specified on the portal, any occurrence of an attempt to access and operate a user terminal not registered under sub-rule (5), along with the information about such user terminal and its location.
- (7) The Central Government may separately notify suitable mechanism for online co-ordination on a regular basis between the air, land and sea customs and an authorised entity for exchange of information in respect of user terminals of satellite systems legally brought into the country which would facilitate the authorised entity in identification and segregation of user terminals of satellite systems clandestinely brought into India, to prevent their access to the satellite system.
- (8) An authorised entity shall monitor the operations of user terminals of satellite systems within India, in the manner as specified by the Central Government or the relevant authorised agency, and shall upon directions by the Central Government, provide details relating to the identity and location of such user terminals.
- (9) An authorised entity shall ensure that no location spoofing device, whether hardware or software, be incorporated with the user terminals to hide the actual location of the user terminals and put in place a mechanism for identification and reporting of any such device in its telecommunication network.
- (10) An authorised entity shall bind stationary type Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) user terminals to the geo-location of the premises of the user, including in respect of any relocation.
- (11) An authorised entity shall ensure that no user relocates the stationary type FSS user terminal except with the prior written approval from such authorised entity.
- (12) An authorised entity shall discontinue the provision of telecommunication services to a user who attempts to, or relocates its FSS user terminal, without its prior written approval.
- (13) An authorised entity shall ensure that the telecommunication services of any user terminal, either in idle mode or in use, are discontinued when such user terminal enters into the areas restricted under sub-rule (2)

of rule 38.

- (14) An authorised entity shall ensure compliance with the directions and timelines issued by the Central Government in respect of provision of Indian navigation satellite system-based positioning system in its user terminals.
- (15) An authorised entity shall develop and submit to the Central Government, in the manner as may be specified, a time-bound action plan aiming to achieve, within a period of five years from the date of commercial launch of services, indigenisation and procurement of at least twenty per cent of the value of the goods, required for the ground segment of satellite network, from India.
- (16) An authorised entity shall submit annual implementation plans pursuant to the action plan specified under sub-rule (15).

CHAPTER 8: SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR TYPES OF TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

67. Applicability of Chapter 8

- (1) In addition to the rules mentioned in Chapter 1 to Chapter 7, the rules mentioned in different Parts of this Chapter shall also apply to an authorised entity providing specific telecommunication services specified in the scope of the relevant Part of this Chapter.
- (2) In the event of any conflict between the provisions of Chapter 1 to Chapter 7 and Chapter 8, the provisions of Chapter 8 shall prevail.

Part A: Unified Service Authorisation

67. Scope of Unified Service Authorisation

- (1) The provisions of this Part A shall apply to authorised entities holding unified service authorisations.
- (2) The scope of unified service authorisation for NSO comprises the scope of:
 - (a) access service authorisation for NSO;
 - (b) internet service authorisation for NSO; and
 - (c) long distance service authorisation for NSO.
- (3) The scope of unified service authorisation for VNO comprises the scope of:
 - (a) access service authorisation for VNO
 - (b) internet service authorisation for VNO; and
 - (c) long distance service authorisation for VNO.
- (4) An authorised entity holding a unified service authorisation may provide the telecommunication services specified under sub-rule (2) or sub-rule (3), as the case may be, through wireline or wireless terrestrial networks, satellite networks including non-terrestrial networks and GMPCS networks, or submarine networks.
- (5) The specific terms and conditions specified under these rules for access service authorisation, internet service authorisation and long-distance service authorisation, shall be applicable for providing the respective telecommunication services under the unified service authorisation, unless specified otherwise for unified service in this Part A of Chapter 8.
- (6) An authorised entity holding a unified service authorisation, shall only provide services under the scope of its authorisation, and not any other service(s) which requires a separate authorisation from the Central Government.

69. Financial Conditions

Notwithstanding the financial conditions mentioned in Chapter 4 of these rules, for arriving at Gross Revenue, ApGR, and AGR, an authorised entity shall draw, maintain and furnish separate accounts for each telecom circle or metro service area level and shall comply with notifications, orders, directions, guidelines, and regulations as may be specified by the Central Government or TRAI, in this regard.

70. Technical and operating conditions

- (1) A NSO may interconnect its telecommunication network with the telecommunication network of any other NSO for handing or taking over the telecommunication traffic at any mutually agreed location, failing

which, the interconnection shall take place at the point of interconnection, as specified in TRAI's regulations on interconnection.

- (2) An authorised entity may deploy any of its telecommunication equipment anywhere in India:

Provided that an authorised entity shall make arrangements for provisioning of lawful interception systems and lawful interception and monitoring facilities in the respective State or Union Territories for meeting the requirements specified under the security conditions.

- (3) An authorised entity shall ensure that the connectivity to disaster management platform and Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) is made available at the State or Union Territory level and follow the instructions issued by the Central Government in this regard.
- (4) An authorised entity shall have complete flexibility to carry its own traffic within its national service area.
- (5) The Central Government shall assign telecommunication identifiers to the authorised entity in accordance with the rules as may be prescribed under sub-section (8) of section 3 of the Act and National Numbering Plan (NNP) as specified on the portal.

71. Security conditions

An authorised entity shall make arrangements for provisioning of lawful interception systems and lawful interception and monitoring facilities in the respective State and Union Territories for meeting the requirement of relevant security conditions.

72. VNO authorised to provide unified service

A VNO authorised to provide unified service shall follow the terms and conditions of the unified service authorisation along with the following specific conditions:

- (a) the VNO may enter into mutual agreements as specified in sub-rule (3) and sub-rule (4) of rule 5, to connect its network to its parent NSO's network and provide the details of such agreements to the Central Government, and update any modifications to such agreements, within seven days, in the manner as specified on the portal.
- (b) the VNO shall not interconnect with telecommunication networks of any other NSO, other than its parent NSO, and any interconnection with other authorised telecommunication networks shall be undertaken only by its parent NSO.
- (c) the other conditions as applicable to VNO for access service, VNO for internet service and VNO for long distance service shall also be applicable to the VNO for unified service for providing the respective telecommunication services.

Part B: Access Service Authorisation

73. Scope of Access Service Authorisation

- (1) The provisions of this Part B shall apply to authorised entities holding access service authorisation.

- (2) The scope of access service authorisation for NSO comprises of the following:

- (a) transmission, emission or reception of voice and non-voice messages, including video messages;
- (b) scope of the internet service authorisation;
- (c) scope of the enterprise communication service authorisation, as specified under the rules for miscellaneous telecommunication services;
- (d) internet telephony service;
- (e) intra-circle long distance calls; and
- (f) Captive Non-Public Network (CNP) as a telecommunication service.

- (3) The scope of access service authorisation for VNO comprises of the following:

- (a) transmission, emission or reception of voice and non-voice messages, including video messages;
- (b) scope of the internet service authorisation for VNO;
- (c) scope of the enterprise communication service authorisation, as specified under the rules for miscellaneous telecommunication services;

- (d) internet telephony service; and
 - (e) intra-circle long distance calls.
- (4) An authorised entity may provide the telecommunication services specified under sub-rule (2) or sub-rule (3) to users over:
- (a) mobile terminals;
 - (b) fixed wireline access terminals;
 - (c) fixed wireless access terminals;
 - (d) FSS (Fixed Satellite Service) terminals including VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) and Earth Station in Motion terminals;
 - (e) MSS (Mobile Satellite Service) terminals;
 - (f) machines including IoT devices and sensor type terminals;
 - (g) routers or switches; or
 - (h) any other type of terminal as specified on the portal, for this purpose.
- (5) An authorised entity holding an access service authorisation may provide the telecommunication services specified under sub-rule (2) or sub-rule (3), as the case may be, through wireline or wireless terrestrial networks, satellite networks including non-terrestrial networks and GMPCS network, or submarine networks.
- (6) The scope of the wireline access service authorisation for VNO shall be restricted to the scope of the access service authorisation for VNO using the wireline access network, and such authorised entity may provide the telecommunication services to users over fixed wireline access terminals only.
- (7) An authorised entity holding an access service authorisation, shall only provide services authorised under the scope of its authorisation, and not any other telecommunication services which may require a separate authorisation from the Central Government.
- (8) The specific terms and conditions specified under these rules for internet service authorisation except for limited internet telephony, and enterprise communication service authorisation under the rules for miscellaneous telecommunication services, shall be applicable for providing the respective telecommunication services under the access service authorisation, unless specified otherwise for access service in this Part B of Chapter 8.

74. Technical and operating conditions

- (1) An authorised entity shall comply with the following technical conditions:
- (a) An authorised entity's telecommunication network shall be compliant with the regulations on Mobile Number Portability (MNP) as well as notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, issued by TRAI or the Central Government, before commencement of telecommunication services;
 - (b) Inter-circle traffic from one service area to another shall be routed through the telecommunication network of authorised entity or licensee having authorisation or license, as the case may be, to provide national long distance (NLD) service;
 - (c) A NSO shall interconnect and provide interconnection, to the telecommunication network of all eligible authorised entities or licensees, as per applicable TRAI regulations, to ensure that the calls are completed to all destinations;
 - (d) International long distance (ILD) traffic shall be routed through the telecommunication network of an authorised entity or licensee having authorisation or license, as the case may be, to provide national long distance (NLD) service to the ILD gateway for onward transmission to international networks

subject to compliance with any notifications, orders, directions, guidelines, or regulations issued by the Central Government or TRAI in this regard:

Provided that, an authorised entity shall not refuse to interconnect its telecommunication network directly with the ILD gateway, in situations where Point of Presence (PoP) of authorised entity or licensee having authorisation or license, as the case may be, to provide ILD service and PoP of an authorised entity or licensee having authorisation or license, as the case may be, to provide access service, are located at the same station.

- (e) An authorised entity shall enrol users only for such telecommunication services which are offered in its telecommunication network, using the spectrum held and technology deployed by the authorised entity.
 - (f) An authorised entity shall assign telecommunication identifiers to its users in accordance with the rules as may be prescribed under sub-section (8) of section 3 of the Act and National Numbering Plan (NNP) as specified on the portal.
- (2) An authorised entity may deploy any of its telecommunication equipment anywhere within its service areas of authorisations, subject to the points of interconnection, located and operated in the respective service areas of authorisations, for inter-operator calls and inter-service area long distance calls, meeting the security conditions as specified in these rules.
 - (3) A NSO holding access service authorisation may enter into mutual agreements for roaming facilities with other NSO's providing telecommunication services:

Provided that any such agreement for roaming shall not authorise an authorised entity to enrol users for such type of telecommunication services or technologies which are not offered in its home telecommunication network.
 - (4) A NSO holding access service authorisation may also enter into mutual agreements with telecommunication service providers outside India to provide roaming facility to its users, unless otherwise directed by the Central Government.
 - (5) An authorised entity may provide Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN) as a telecommunication service to user by using its telecommunication network including through telecommunication network slicing.
 - (6) An authorised entity may establish isolated CNPN for users, using access spectrum assigned to it:

Provided that while establishing such isolated CNPNs, an authorised entity shall ensure that the applicable QoS standards through public telecommunication network are maintained.
 - (7) In case an authorised entity decides to surrender the spectrum, which is being used for CNPNs, it shall give notice of such surrender, at least six months before the effective date of surrender of such spectrum, to its CNPN users.
 - (8) An authorised entity may carry intra-circle long distance traffic on its telecommunication network or may enter into mutual agreements with the entities having authorisation to provide access service or long distance service, for carrying its intra-circle long distance traffic.
 - (9) Where an authorised entity has separate authorisations for access service and internet service in a common geographical area, the authorised entity shall declare to the Central Government, prior to commencement of telecommunication service, the type of authorisation, under which such services shall be provided by such authorised entity.

Illustration: If A, an authorised entity having authorisation to provide internet services in national service area, obtains access service authorisation in Haryana and Gujarat service areas, then A shall declare to the Central Government, prior to the commencement of telecommunication service in Haryana and Gujarat service areas, whether A will provide internet services under access service authorisation or internet service authorisation.
 - (10) An authorised entity shall provide, independently or through mutual agreements entered into with other authorised entities, all public utility services as well as emergency services, including toll-free services like PSAP, police, fire, ambulance.
 - (11) The Central Government may declare any public utility or emergency number as toll free service from time to time.
 - (12) While providing access to public utility services, emergency services, emergency response services, services for relief and rescue on occurrence of disaster, an authorised entity shall take all measures to ensure that messages are delivered to the designated control room of the concerned authority, as specified by the Central Government in this regard.

(13) For provision of internet telephony service under this authorisation, the following conditions shall be applicable:

- (a) A NSO may interconnect its internet telephony network with PSTN, PLMN, or GMPSC network;
- (b) Internet telephony services may be provided to users having fixed or mobile user terminals;
- (c) While providing internet telephony services to mobile and fixed terminal users, an authorised entity shall assign the telecommunication identifiers allocated for mobile services and fixed services, respectively;
- (d) An authorised entity may allocate the same telecommunication identifier for mobile service and mobile internet telephony service, to a user;
- (e) An authorised entity may allocate the same telecommunication identifier for fixed service and fixed internet telephony service, to a user;
- (f) An authorised entity shall use private ENUM (E.164 Number to Uniform resource identifier Mapping) in its telecommunication network for telephone number mapping from E.164 to SIP/H.323 addresses and vice versa;
- (g) IP address assigned to a user for internet telephony shall conform to the IP addressing Scheme of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) and the details of such IP addresses shall be submitted to the Central Government, in the form and manner, as may be specified;
- (h) Internet telephony calls originated by international out-roamers from international locations shall be handed over at the international long distance (ILD) gateway of authorised entity providing ILD service and international termination charges shall be paid to the terminating entity having authorisation to provide access service:

Provided that where an authorised entity is not able to ensure that the internet telephony call originated outside India is routed through ILD gateway, it shall cease provision of international out-roaming facility to its internet telephony users;

- (i) The public IP address used for originating or terminating internet telephony calls shall be made a mandatory part of call data record (CDR) in case of internet telephony and the location details in the form of latitude and longitude shall be provided, wherever feasible;
- (j) CLI restriction (CLIR) facility shall not be provided for internet telephony users;
- (k) An authorised entity providing internet telephony service may facilitate access to emergency number calls as specified in the National Numbering Plan, using location services, however, it is not mandated to provide such services and the users shall be informed about the limitation of providing access to emergency services, to internet telephony users, in unambiguous terms;
- (l) An authorised entity shall inform its users of QoS parameter supported by it in respect of internet telephony; and
- (m) An authorised entity providing internet telephony service shall comply with all the interception and monitoring related requirements as specified in these rules.

75. Security conditions

- (1) An authorised entity shall make arrangements for provisioning of lawful interception system and lawful interception and monitoring facilities in the respective State and Union Territories for meeting the relevant security conditions.
- (2) An authorised entity shall implement the interface requirements as well as features and facilities, for all types of telecommunication traffic, for lawful interception system and lawful interception and monitoring facilities, as specified by the Central Government, and shall ensure:
 - (a) suitable redundancy in the complete chain of lawful interception system and lawful interception and monitoring facilities for trouble free monitoring of simultaneous calls, as specified by the Central Government; and
 - (b) each relevant telecommunication equipment of an authorised entity shall have the capacity for provisioning the minimum number of telecommunication identifiers for monitoring, as specified by the Central Government.

- (3) An authorised entity shall make arrangements for monitoring of telecommunication traffic, including simultaneous calls, in the relevant telecommunication equipment of its telecommunication network, to enable monitoring by authorised agencies, and also supply call related information (CRI), in the form and manner as may be specified for this purpose, which shall include the following:
- (a) called and calling party telecommunication identifiers, including when user is roaming;
 - (b) time, date and duration of call;
 - (c) location of target user, providing the details in sub-rule (5);
 - (d) co-ordinates and name of base station site;
 - (e) telecommunication identifiers, if any call-forwarding feature has been invoked by target user;
 - (f) data records for failed call attempts; and
 - (g) call data records of roaming users.
- (4) An authorised entity shall, upon receiving a request from the relevant authorised agency, provide the CDRs of all specified calls handled by its telecommunication network, at specified periodicity, in the form and manner, as may be specified, for this purpose.
- (5) An authorised entity shall ensure facility to provide location details of mobile users with accuracy as specified by the Central Government, and such details shall be a part of call data record in the form of longitude and latitude, along with the co-ordinates of the base station site.
- (6) An authorised entity providing access services shall maintain Local International Out Roamer (LIOR) repository which shall be updated on real time basis with telecommunication identifiers of its users, who are on international roaming.
- (7) An authorised entity shall update the Central International Out Roamer (CIOR) system on real time basis and abide by the instructions issued by the Central Government in this regard.
- (8) An authorised entity shall not provide CLI restriction (CLIR) facility to users except in accordance with the standard operating procedure issued by the Central Government in this regard.
- (9) An authorised entity shall list its users having CLIR facility, on a password protected website with their complete address and details, and shall enable access to such website, as may be required, to the Central Government or authorised agencies.
- (10) While providing CLIR facility to users, an authorised entity shall ensure that the CLI is carried from end to end on the telecommunication network:
- Provided that* CLIR facility shall not be provided in case of business connections, call centres, or telemarketing services.
- (11) An authorised entity shall ensure that the SIM personalization is carried out as per the notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines, specified by the Central Government for this purpose.

76. VNO authorised to provide Access Service

A VNO authorised to provide access service shall follow the terms and conditions of access service authorisation along with the following specific conditions:

- (a) the VNO may enter into mutual agreements as specified in sub-rule (3) and sub-rule (4) of rule 5, to connect its network to its parent NSO's network and provide the details of such agreements, and update any modifications to such agreements, within seven days, in the manner as specified on the portal.
- (b) the VNO shall not interconnect with telecommunication networks of any other NSO, other than its parent NSO, and any interconnection with other authorised telecommunication networks shall be undertaken only by its parent NSO;
- (c) the VNO shall not integrate the telecommunication networks obtained from different NSOs for routing of traffic from one NSO to another NSO;
- (d) the VNO shall obtain from its parent NSO a range of telecommunication identifiers from the telecommunication identifiers allocated to its parent NSO by the Central Government:

Provided that, VNO may obtain location routing numbers from the Central Government.

- (e) the VNO shall not be assigned any spectrum however, such VNO may establish its radio access network as per the mutual agreement with its parent NSO, utilising backhaul spectrum and access spectrum of its parent NSO.
- (f) the VNO shall comply with such security conditions as applicable to its telecommunication network and telecommunication services.
- (g) the specific terms and conditions specified under these rules for internet service authorisation for VNO except for limited internet telephony, and enterprise communication service authorisation under the rules for miscellaneous telecommunication services, shall be applicable for providing the respective telecommunication services under the access service authorisation for VNO, unless specified otherwise for VNO authorised to provide access service in this Part B of Chapter 8.

77. VNO authorised to provide Wireline Access Service

The VNO having Wireline Access Service authorisation shall follow the relevant terms and conditions as applicable for provision of wireline access services.

Part C: Internet Service Authorisation

78. Scope of Internet Service authorisation

- (1) The provisions of this Part C shall apply to authorised entities holding internet service authorisation.
- (2) The scope of internet service authorisation for NSO comprises of the following:
 - (a) Internet service;
 - (b) Limited internet telephony service through public internet using Personal Computers (PC) or IP based Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) connecting only the following:
 - (i) PC to PC, within or outside India;
 - (ii) PC, device, or adapter, conforming to notified standards, in India to Public Switched Telecommunication Network (PSTN) or Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) user terminals outside India; and
 - (iii) Any PC, device or adapter, conforming to notified standards, connected in India with internet node using static Internet Protocol (IP) address to similar PC, device, or adapter, within or outside India.
 - (c) Domestic Leased circuit;
 - (d) Internet Lease Line (ILL);
 - (e) M2M service;
 - (f) Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) service; and
 - (g) Scope of IFMC service authorisation, limited to Internet service, under the rules for miscellaneous telecommunication services.
- (3) The scope of internet service authorisation for VNO shall comprises of the following:
 - (a) Internet service;
 - (b) Limited internet telephony service through public internet using Personal Computers (PC) or IP based Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) connecting only the following:
 - (i) PC to PC, within or outside India;
 - (ii) PC, device, or adapter, conforming to notified standards, in India to Public Switched Telecommunication Network (PSTN) or Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) user terminals outside India; and
 - (iii) Any PC, device or adapter, conforming to notified standards, connected in India with internet node using static Internet Protocol (IP) address to similar PC, device, or adapter, within or outside India.

- (c) Domestic Leased circuit;
 - (d) Internet Leased Line (ILL);
 - (e) M2M service; and
 - (f) Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) service.
- (4) An authorised entity may provide the telecommunication services specified under sub-rule (2) or sub-rule (3) to fixed users over:
- (a) fixed wireline access terminals;
 - (b) fixed wireless access terminals;
 - (c) FSS (Fixed Satellite Service) terminals including VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) and Earth Station in Motion terminals;
 - (d) machines including IoT devices and sensor type terminals;
 - (e) routers or switches; or
 - (f) any other type of terminal as specified on the portal, for this purpose.
- (5) A NSO may provide:
- (a) bandwidth to other authorised entities or licensees for connecting their telecommunication network equipment, including backhaul connectivity; and
 - (b) internet bandwidth to another authorised entity or licensee, authorised to provide internet service.
- (6) An authorised entity may provide M2M service to another authorised entity or licensee, authorised to provide M2M communication services under applicable rules.
- (7) An authorised entity may provide the telecommunication services specified under sub-rule (2), sub-rule (3), sub-rule (5), or sub-rule (6), as the case may be, through wireline or wireless terrestrial networks, satellite networks, or submarine networks.
- (8) A NSO may establish, operate, maintain or expand the Internet Exchange Point (IXP) to provide the authorised telecommunication services.
- (9) A NSO seeking to establish, operate, maintain or expand the International Internet Gateway (IIG) to provide authorised telecommunication services, shall apply to the Central Government, in the form and manner as specified on the portal and shall obtain separate security clearances in this regard.
- (10) The Central Government may, on assessment of the application under sub-rule (9), grant a written approval to such NSO.
- (11) An authorised entity with International Internet Gateway may sell International Internet bandwidth to other NSOs providing internet service.
- (12) An authorised entity may establish, operate, maintain or expand Low Power Wide Area Network (LPWAN) or an equivalent network using spectrum exempted from the requirement of assignment under sub-section (6) or sub-section (7) of section 4 of the Act, for providing M2M service using wireless terrestrial networks.
- (13) An authorised entity holding an internet service authorisation, shall only provide services authorised under the scope of its authorisation, and not any other service(s) which may require a separate authorisation from the Central Government.
- (14) The terms and conditions specified under the rules applicable for miscellaneous telecommunication services, as applicable for M2M service or IFMC service authorisations, shall be applicable for providing M2M service or IFMC service under the internet service authorisation, unless specified otherwise for internet service in this Part C of Chapter 8.

79. Technical and operating conditions

- (1) An authorised entity holding internet service authorisation shall comply with the technical and operating conditions set forth under this rule.
- (2) An authorised entity may establish interconnectivity or peering with the telecommunication network of other authorised entities or licensees to provide internet services, and the resources required for

interconnecting or peering an authorised entity's telecommunication network to the telecommunication network of other authorised entities or licensee shall be as mutually agreed between such entities.

- (3) For provisioning of IPTV services, an authorised entity shall comply with the rules, notifications, orders, directions, or guidelines specified by the Central Government, for this purpose.
- (4) An authorised entity shall ensure that its telecommunication network is not connected with telecommunications network pertaining to access service such as PSTN, PLMN, or GMPCS networks in India.
- (5) Voice communication through limited internet telephony to and from a telephone connected to PSTN or PLMN or GMPCS network in India, and use of E.164 numbering plan of the International Telecommunications Union for limited internet telephony are not permissible under the internet service authorisation.
- (6) An authorised entity shall ensure that:
 - (a) the addressing scheme for limited internet telephony is in compliance with the IP addressing Scheme of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), and
 - (b) translation of E.164 number or private number to IP address allotted to any telecommunication equipment or vice versa is not undertaken.
- (7) An authorised entity shall obtain IP addresses, domain name or any other relevant requirements for the provision of internet services, from authorised internet registries directly and the details of such IP addresses shall be submitted to the Central Government, in the form and manner, as may be specified.
- (8) In case the authorised entity provides internet service using spectrum which has been exempted from the requirements of assignment under the Act, the authorised entity shall comply with the notifications, orders, directions or guidelines, as may be issued by Central Government from time to time in this regard.
- (9) An authorised entity shall provide unrestricted access to all the content available on the internet to its users except for such content which is restricted by the Central Government.
- (10) An authorised entity shall not:
 - (a) engage in any discriminatory treatment of content, including based on the sender or receiver, or based on the protocols being used or the user terminal; and
 - (b) enter into any arrangement, agreement or contract, by whatever name called, with any person that has the effect of discriminatory treatment of content:
- (11) Notwithstanding sub-rule (10), an authorised entity may:
 - (a) provide specialised services subject to the following conditions:
 - (i) the specialised services are not usable or offered as a replacement for internet service; and
 - (ii) the provision of such specialised services is not detrimental to the availability and overall quality of internet service.
 - (b) adopt any measure falling under any of the following categories that are proportionate, transient and transparent in nature:
 - (i) reasonable traffic management practices as may be specified by the Central Government;
 - (ii) provision of emergency services or any other services as may be required during any public emergency, as per the processes specified by the Central Government or TRAI;
 - (iii) implementation of any order of a court or direction issued by the Central Government, in accordance with law;
 - (iv) measures for preserving the integrity and security of the telecommunication network and telecommunication equipment; and
 - (v) appropriate measures in pursuance of an international treaty, as may be specified by the Central Government for this purpose.

Explanation: For the purpose of this provision:

- (a) "content" shall include all content, applications, services and any other data, including its end-point

information, which can be accessed or transmitted over the internet.

- (b) “discriminatory treatment” shall include any form of discrimination, restriction or interference in the treatment of content, including practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds or treatment to any content.
- (c) “specialised services” shall mean services other than internet access services that are optimised for specific content, protocols or user equipment, where the optimisation is necessary in order to meet specific quality of service requirements;

80. Security conditions

- (1) An authorised entity shall ensure that the ILL users maintain the usage details of IP addresses or network address translation (NAT) syslog, in case of multiple users on the same ILL, for a minimum period of two years.
- (2) An authorised entity shall ensure compliance with the requirement in sub-rule (1) by requiring the ILL users to submit periodic reports or take any such other measure as necessary for compliance of this requirement, and in case of non-compliance with the reporting requirement, such authorised entity shall withdraw the service from such ILL user.
- (3) An authorised entity shall ensure that another authorised entity requesting upstream internet bandwidth to serve its own downstream users has a valid authorisation for internet service.
- (4) An authorised entity shall, in the interest of national security or public interest, block internet sites, uniform resource locators (URLs), uniform resource identifiers (URIs) or individual users, as identified and directed by the Central Government.
- (5) The traffic of internet nodes, in places of security importance as specified by the Central Government, shall be segregated and routed as per directions issued from time to time by the Central Government for this purpose.
- (6) An authorised entity shall, for the purpose of interception and monitoring of traffic, provide the copies of all the packets originating from or terminating into the customer premises equipment (CPE) including M2M device to the Central Government or its authorised agencies as required.
- (7) An authorised entity shall set up lawful interception system and lawful interception and monitoring facilities of requisite capacities for internet traffic including internet telephony traffic through its Internet Gateways and internet nodes at its own cost, as per the requirement of the Central Government or its authorised agencies, as specified.
- (8) An authorised entity shall bear the cost of maintenance of establishment and maintenance of the monitoring telecommunication equipment and infrastructure located at the premises of such authorised entity.
- (9) An authorised entity, providing internet bandwidth to another authorised entity or licensee authorised to provide internet services, shall ensure that it has the capability in its telecommunication network, to monitor all the telecommunication traffic of such downstream authorised entity or licensee.
- (10) The Central Government may direct an authorised entity to install lawful interception system and lawful interception and monitoring facilities at such nodes which have upstream bandwidth from multiple authorised entities, in the manner as may be specified by the Central Government:
Provided that in such cases, authorised entities providing such upstream internet bandwidth may not be required to monitor this bandwidth.
- (11) In case an authorised entity has multiple nodes or points of presence and has capability to monitor the traffic at all the internet nodes from a centralised monitoring location, the Central Government may accept to monitor the traffic from the said centralised monitoring location:
Provided that such authorised entity is able to demonstrate to the Central Government or authorised agencies that all internet nodes are accessible from the centralised monitoring location.
- (12) An authorised entity shall inform to the Central Government, on such periodicity as may be specified by the Central Government, of every change that takes place in topology or configuration of the telecommunication network and ensure that such change does not make any internet nodes inaccessible from the centralised monitoring location.
- (13) An authorised entity shall demonstrate its capability of monitoring, to the Central Government, if so required, upon making any change as specified in sub-rule (12), in the telecommunication network.

- (14) An authorised entity shall, at its own cost, provide space of a specified area, at each monitoring system location, with adequate and uninterrupted power supply and air-conditioning which shall be physically secured and accessible only to the authorised agencies.
- (15) An authorised entity shall ensure that Domain Name System (DNS) used for address resolution shall be located in India.
- (16) An authorised entity shall provide the details of IP addresses used in its telecommunication network, in the form and manner as may be specified by the Central Government.

81. VNO authorised to provide Internet Service

A VNO authorised to provide internet service shall follow the terms and conditions of the internet service authorisation, as applicable, along with the following specific conditions:

- (a) the VNO may enter into mutual agreements as specified in sub-rule (3) and sub-rule (4) of rule 5, to connect its network to its parent NSO's network and provide the details of such agreements, and update any modifications to such agreements, within seven days, in the manner as specified on the portal.
- (b) the VNO shall not interconnect with telecommunication networks of any other NSO, other than its parent NSO, and any interconnection with other authorised telecommunication networks shall be undertaken only by its parent NSO.
- (c) the VNO may obtain IP addresses, domain names and any other relevant requirements either from its NSO or authorised internet registries, and it may get the IP addresses, obtained from authorised internet registries, configured in the telecommunication network of its parent NSO(s) and the details of such IP addresses shall be submitted to the Central Government, in the form and manner, as may be specified.
- (d) the VNO shall comply with such security conditions as applicable to its telecommunication network and telecommunication services.
- (e) the VNO having connectivity from multiple NSOs may be required to install lawful interception system and lawful interception and monitoring facilities, as specified by the Central Government, and in such cases, the authorised entities providing upstream bandwidth may not be required to monitor such internet bandwidth.
- (f) the VNO may provide domestic leased circuit to its users by:
 - (i) connecting its telecommunication equipment to the telecommunication network of its parent NSO; or
 - (ii) using the telecommunication network of its parent NSO.

Part D: Long Distance Service Authorisation

82. Scope of Long Distance Service Authorisation

- (1) The provisions of this Part D shall apply to authorised entities holding long distance service authorisation.
- (2) The scope of long distance service authorisation for NSO comprises the following:
 - (a) National Long Distance (NLD) service comprising the following:
 - (i) carriage of bearer telecommunication traffic within India;
 - (ii) carriage of intra-circle and inter-circle long distance calls;
 - (iii) domestic leased circuit; and
 - (iv) domestic calling card.
 - (b) International Long Distance (ILD) service comprising the following:
 - (i) carriage of bearer telecommunication traffic outside India;
 - (ii) carriage of international long-distance calls to or from foreign carriers;
 - (iii) International Private leased Circuit (IPLC); and
 - (iv) international calling card.
- (3) The scope of long distance service authorisation for VNO shall comprise the following:

- (a) National Long Distance (NLD) service of following types:
 - (i) carriage of bearer telecommunication traffic within India;
 - (ii) carriage of intra-circle and inter-circle long distance calls;
 - (iii) domestic leased circuit; and
 - (iv) domestic calling card.
- (b) International Long Distance (ILD) service of the following types:
 - (i) carriage of bearer telecommunication traffic outside India;
 - (ii) carriage of international long-distance calls to or from foreign carriers;
 - (iii) International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC); and
 - (iv) international calling card.
- (4) A NSO may provide:
 - (a) domestic bandwidth on lease to other authorised entities or licensees who are permitted to have such connectivity under their respective authorisation; and
 - (b) international bandwidth on lease to other authorised entities or licensees who are permitted to have such connectivity under their respective authorisation.
- (5) A NSO may establish, operate, maintain or expand the cable landing station (CLS) or cable landing station - point of presence (CLS-PoP) after obtaining requisite security clearance and prior written approval from the Central Government, for domestic and international submarine cable systems, to provide telecommunication services.
- (6) A NSO may establish, operate, maintain or expand the international long distance (ILD) gateway or international internet gateway (IIG), after obtaining requisite security clearance and prior written approval from the Central Government, to provide telecommunication services.
- (7) An authorised entity may provide the telecommunication services specified under sub-rule (2), sub-rule (3) and sub-rule (4), as the case may be, through wireline or wireless terrestrial networks, satellite networks, or submarine networks.
- (8) An authorised entity may access the users directly for provisioning of domestic leased circuit, domestic calling cards, International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC), or international calling card.
- (9) An authorised entity shall only provide telecommunication services authorised under the scope of its authorisation, and not any other service which may require a separate authorisation from the Central Government.

83. Technical and Operating Conditions

- (1) An authorised entity's telecommunication network shall be compliant with the regulations in respect of mobile number portability (MNP), notifications, orders, directions and guidelines, as issued by TRAI or the Central Government, before commencement of telecommunication services.
- (2) An authorised entity shall ensure that international long distance traffic shall be routed through the ILD gateway for transmission to and from international telecommunication networks outside India, in compliance with notifications, orders, directions, guidelines or regulations, as may be specified by the Central Government or TRAI, for this purpose.
- (3) An authorised entity shall not refuse to interconnect its telecommunication network directly with the PoP of an authorised entity or licensee having authorisation for access service, where PoP of such authorised entity having authorisation for ILD service and PoP of such authorised entity or licensee having authorisation for access service are located at the same station.
- (4) For provision of calling cards services, the terms and conditions of interconnection shall be mutually agreed between the authorised entities or licensees within the framework of and in accordance with notifications, orders, directions, guidelines, or regulations as may be issued by TRAI or the Central Government, for this purpose.
- (5) For the purpose of carriage of bearer telecommunication traffic, it shall be mandatory for the authorised entities or licensees authorised to provide access service to provide interconnection to the authorised entities or licensees authorised to provide national long distance service.

- (6) Inter-circle bearer telecommunication traffic shall be handed or taken over at the PoP of an authorised entity, situated in originating or terminating telecom circle or metro service area, in conformity with the regulations of TRAI.
- (7) For intra-circle bearer telecommunication traffic, an authorised entity may make arrangements under mutually agreed terms and conditions with the concerned authorised entity providing access service for picking up, carriage and delivery of telecommunication traffic within a telecom circle or metro service area.
- (8) An authorised entity shall ensure the carriage of all types of bearer telecommunication traffic so that end-to-end telecommunication services may be provided by the authorised entities providing access services to the users.
- (9) An authorised entity, for providing international long distance services, shall establish ILD gateway along with requisite lawful interception and monitoring facilities, with the prior written approval and requisite security clearances from the Central Government obtained pursuant to an application made in the form and manner as may be specified on the portal:

Provided that such approval shall be given after successful completion of testing and inspection of the lawful interception and monitoring facilities.

- (10) An authorised entity shall ensure that all types of ILD traffic originating from or terminating on telecommunication networks in India passes only through ILD gateway established pursuant to written approval and requisite security clearances under sub-rule (9).
- (11) While entering into an agreement or arrangement with foreign carriers, for provision of end-to-end ILD services including international private leased circuit (IPLC) service, the entities authorised to provide ILD service shall ensure that the foreign carrier does not acquire users in India and does not raise bills or collect revenue to or from any user of the ILD services in India.
- (12) Cable Landing Station (CLS):

- (a) An authorised entity shall apply, in the form and manner as may be specified, and seek separate permissions and clearances for the establishment of CLS and submarine cable(s) landing in India:

Provided that an authorised entity applying for permission to establish CLS-PoP, shall not be required to obtain a separate permission and clearance for submarine cable(s) landing in India.

Provided further that the permission for international CLS and CLS-PoP shall be given to only such authorised entity who has been permitted to establish ILD gateway.

Provided also that the permission for domestic CLS shall be given to authorised entity which is providing any of the long distance services.

- (b) The Central Government may, subject to its assessment of the application made under clause (a), and security vetting, if required, grant permission, subject to terms and conditions as it may specify, including the following:

- (i) In respect of CLS, an authorised entity owning CLS may establish submarine line terminating equipment (SLTE) at such CLS or extend its dark fibre pairs, whether owned or leased, in the submarine cable from the main CLS to its CLS-PoP and establish SLTE at CLS-PoP:

Provided that an authorised entity having fibre pairs in the submarine cable but not owning the CLS may extend its dark fibre pairs, whether owned or leased, in the submarine cable from the CLS to its CLS-PoP and establish SLTE at CLS-PoP;

- (ii) Domestic submarine cables shall connect two or more cities on the Indian coastline for carrying domestic traffic, and wherever required, the domestic submarine cable may go beyond Indian territorial waters (ITW) or exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of India for technical and safety reasons;

- (iii) International submarine cable may carry domestic traffic on dedicated fibre pairs that are provisioned between two Indian cities:

Provided that that such domestic traffic is not transited or routed through any other country outside India;

- (iv) In case the domestic and international cables are separate, they can terminate at the same CLS, with each cable having its own separate power feeding equipment (PFE) and SLTE;

- (v) An authorised entity shall ensure that a physical separation of terminating equipment for domestic and international traffic is maintained;
 - (vi) Transit international traffic which is not meant to be terminated on telecommunication networks in India shall be permitted to be transited to other submarine cables through terrestrial as well as submarine cable links;
 - (vii) An authorised entity may lay stub-cable (pre-laid dark fibre) and either terminate them in their existing CLS or establish new CLS for such stub-cable with the prior permission of Central Government;
 - (viii) Equal access to facilities at the CLS including landing facilities for submarine cables of other authorised entities providing long distance service shall be given on non-discrimination basis in accordance with the regulation or directions of TRAI;
 - (ix) An authorised entity owning CLS shall permit an authorised entity owning the CLS-PoP to extend its fiber pairs on non-discrimination basis in accordance with the regulation or directions of TRAI; and
 - (x) Access or co-location at the CLS or CLS-PoP shall be governed by the orders, directions, guidelines, or regulations, issued by TRAI for this purpose.
- (13) An authorised entity having CLS shall seek separate permissions and clearances for additional submarine cable landing in India.
- (14) An authorised entity establishing CLS shall, in case of any fault in submarine cable, ensure timely repair of such submarine cable for expeditious restoration of telecommunication services.
- (15) An authorised entity shall make necessary arrangements on its own, or through agreements with the entities providing submarine cable repair service, to ensure that such fault in submarine cable is repaired within the time limit as may be specified by the Central Government:

Provided that the Central Government may issue any instruction or direction to all such authorised entities or licensees who have established CLS in India to form a consortium, to ensure that a cable repair ship, along with the required cable repair services team, is always available within the Indian territorial waters and such ship is made available to the consortium members for timely repair of domestic and international submarine cables.

84. Security Conditions

- (1) An authorised entity shall ensure that CLI is not tampered with and transit the CLI as received from other authorised entities or foreign carriers:

Provided that an authorised entity providing international long distance service shall drop all international incoming calls with no CLI or improper CLI or spoofed CLI at their gateways and for identifying an improper CLI, ITU-T recommendations on E.164 numbering scheme shall be referred:

Provided further that for prevention of spoofed incoming international calls, an authorised entity providing international long distance services shall implement the Local International Out Roamer (LIOR) and Central International Out Roamer (CIOR) system or any other system as may be specified by the Central Government from time to time;

Provided also that an authorised entity shall ensure that all international calls, handed over by an authorised entity to national long distance network or access service telecommunication network, should bear “Nature of Address Indicator (NAI)” field in case of CCS7 or equivalent field in SIP or IP signalling as “International Number”.

- (2) An authorised entity shall ensure that any agreement with foreign carriers shall have the necessary provisions including provisions for blocking of foreign carrier in case of non-compliance, in order to ensure conformity with sub-rule (1).
- (3) An authorised entity shall, at its own cost, provide specified space, with adequate and uninterrupted power supply and air-conditioning, which shall be physically secured and accessible only to the personnel authorised by the Central Government, at each international gateway location.
- (4) The authorised agencies may monitor the telecommunication traffic in relevant telecommunication equipment of the telecommunication network including the international gateway set up by an authorised entity and such authorised entity shall make arrangements for monitoring simultaneous calls by such agencies.

- (5) An authorised entity shall implement the interface requirements as well as features for all types of telecommunication traffic, for lawful interception systems and lawful interception and monitoring facilities, as specified by the Central Government, and shall ensure:
- suitable redundancy in the complete chain of lawful interception systems and lawful interception and monitoring facilities for trouble free monitoring of simultaneous calls, as specified by the Central Government; and
 - each relevant telecommunication equipment of an authorised entity shall have the capacity for provisioning the minimum number of telecommunication identifiers for monitoring, as specified by the Central Government.
- (6) An authorised entity shall, upon receiving a request from the relevant authorised agency, provide the call data records of all specified calls handled by its telecommunication network, at specified periodicity, in the form and manner, as may be specified on the portal, for this purpose.

85. VNO authorised to provide Long Distance Service

A VNO authorised to provide long distance service shall follow the terms and conditions of the long distance service authorisation along with the following specific conditions:

- the VNO may enter into mutual agreements as specified in sub-rule (3) and sub-rule (4) of rule 5, to connect its network to its parent NSO's network and provide the details of such agreements, and update any modifications to such agreements, within seven days, in the manner as specified on the portal;
- the VNO shall not interconnect with telecommunication networks of any other NSO, other than its parent NSO, and any interconnection with other authorised telecommunication networks shall be undertaken only by its parent NSO.
- the VNO shall comply with such security conditions as applicable to its telecommunication network and telecommunication services.
- the VNO may provide domestic leased circuit to its users by:
 - connecting its telecommunication equipment to the telecommunication network of its parent NSO; or
 - using the telecommunication network of its parent NSO.

SCHEDULE A: PROCESSING FEE, ENTRY FEE AND INITIAL GUARANTEE FOR AUTHORISATIONS FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

Sl.No.	Category of service authorisations	Service Authorisation	Processing Fee (in Rs.)	Entry Fee (in Rs.)	Initial Guarantee (in Rs.)
1.	Main Telecommunications Service Authorisations (NSO)	Unified Service Authorisation	1 lakh	12 crores	44 crores
2.		Access Service Authorisation	10,000	50 lakh (25 lakh for NE & J&K)	2 crores
3.		Internet Service Authorisation (National Area)	10,000	10 lakh	4 lakh
4.		Internet Service Authorisation (Telecom circle/ Metro Area)	10,000	50,000 (25,000 for NE & J&K)	20,000
5.		Long Distance Service Authorisation	10,000	1 crore	1 crore
6.	Main Telecommunication Service Authorisations (VNO)	Unified Service Authorisation	1 lakh	3 crores	4.4 crores
7.		Access Service Authorisation	10,000	12.5 lakh (6.25 lakh for NE & J&K)	20 lakh
8.		Wireline Access Service Authorisation	10,000	50,000 (25,000 for NE & J&K)	10,000

Sl.No.	Category of service authorisations	Service Authorisation	Processing Fee (in Rs.)	Entry Fee (in Rs.)	Initial Guarantee (in Rs.)
9.		Internet Service Authorisation (National Area)	10,000	10 lakh	1 lakh
10.		Internet Service Authorisation (Telecom circle/ Metro Area)	10,000	50,000 (25,000 for NE & J&K)	10,000
11.		Long Distance Service Authorisation	10,000	25 lakh	50 lakh

SCHEDULE B: SERVICE AREAS

Sl.No.	Service Area	Area Covered
1.	West Bengal Service Area	Entire area falling within the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and area falling within the State of West Bengal and the State of Sikkim excluding the areas covered by Kolkata Service Area
2.	Andhra Pradesh Service Area	Entire area falling within the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State
3.	Assam Service Area	Entire area falling within the State of Assam.
4.	Bihar Service Area	Entire area falling within the re-organised State of Bihar and newly created State of Jharkhand pursuant to the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 (No.30 of 2000) dated 25th August, 2000
5.	Gujarat Service Area	Entire area falling within the State of Gujarat and Union Territory of Daman and Diu, Silvassa (Dadra & Nagar Haveli)
6.	Haryana Service Area	Entire area falling within the State of Haryana except Panchkula town and the local areas served by Faridabad and Gurgaon Telephone Exchanges
7.	Himachal Pradesh Service Area	Entire area falling within the State of Himachal Pradesh
8.	Jammu & Kashmir Service Area	Entire area falling within the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh.
9.	Karnataka Service Area	Entire area falling within the State of Karnataka
10.	Kerala Service Area	Entire area falling within the State of Kerala and Union Territory of Lakshadweep and Minicoy.
11.	Madhya Pradesh Service Area	Entire area falling within the re-organised State of Madhya Pradesh as well as the newly created State of Chattisgarh pursuant to the Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 (No:28 of 2000) dated 25 th August, 2000.
12.	Maharashtra Service Area	Entire area falling within the State of Maharashtra and State of Goa, excluding areas covered by Mumbai Service Area.
13.	North East Service Area	Entire area falling within the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura.
14.	Odisha Service Area	Entire area falling within the State of Odisha.
15.	Punjab Service Area	Entire area falling within the State of Punjab and Union territory of Chandigarh and Panchkula town of Haryana.
16.	Rajasthan Service Area	Entire area falling within the State of Rajasthan.
17.	Tamilnadu Service Area (including Chennai Service Area)	Entire area falling within the State of Tamilnadu and Union Territory of Puducherry.
18.	Uttar Pradesh (West) Service Area	Entire area covered by Western Uttar Pradesh with the following as its boundary districts towards Eastern Uttar Pradesh :Pilibhit, Bareilly, Badaun, Kasganj (Kanshiram Nagar), Etah, Mainpuri, Etawah and Auraiya. It will exclude the local telephone area of Ghaziabad and Noida. However, it will also include the newly created State of Uttaranchal pursuant to the Uttar Pradesh Re-organisation Act, 2000 (No.29 of 2000) dated 25 th August, 2000.

19.	Uttar Pradesh (East) Service Area	Entire area covered by Eastern Uttar Pradesh with the following as its boundary districts towards Western Uttar Pradesh: Shahjahanpur, Kannauj, Farrukhabad, Lakhimpur, Kanpur Rural and Jalaun (Orai).
20.	Delhi Service Area	Local Areas served by Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida, and Gurgaon Telephone Exchanges
21.	Kolkata Service Area	Local Areas served by Calcutta Telephones.
22.	Mumbai Service Area	Local Areas served by Mumbai, New Mumbai and Kalyan Telephone Exchanges

SCHEDULE C: MINIMUM EQUITY, MINIMUM NETWORTH FOR AUTHORISATIONS FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

Sl.No.	Category of service authorisations	Service Authorisation	Minimum Equity (in Rs.)	Minimum Networth (in Rs.)
1.	Main Services Authorisations (NSO)	Unified Service Authorisation	25 crores	25 crores
2.		Access Service Authorisation	2.5 crores	2.5 crores
3.		Internet Service Authorisation (National Area)	10 lakh	Nil
4.		Internet Service Authorisation (Telecom circle/ Metro Area)	1 lakh	Nil
5.		Long Distance Service Authorisation	2.5 crores	2.5 crores
6.	Main Service Authorisations (VNO)	Unified Service Authorisation	10 crores	10 crores
7.		Access Service Authorisation	1 crore	1 crore
8.		Wireline Access Service Authorisation	1 lakh	Nil
9.		Internet Service Authorisation (National Area)	10 lakh	Nil
10.		Internet Service Authorisation (Telecom circle/ Metro Area)	1 lakh	Nil
11.		Long Distance Service Authorisation	1 crore	1 crore

SCHEDULE D: FORMAT OF AUTHORISATION FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

Department of Telecommunications

Section 3 (1) (a) of the Telecommunications Act 2023

- In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3(1)(a) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, I, _____ (name and Designation), Department of Telecommunications, _____ (address) acting on behalf of the President of India, on considering the Application No.Dated grant a(n) (name of the Authorisation) to (name of applicant), _____ (address) (hereinafter in this document referred to as the 'Authorised Entity').
- This service authorisation shall be governed by the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, as modified or replaced from time to time, or any other relevant Act; and the rules made thereunder.
- The salient terms of this authorisation are given below:
 - Effective Date of the authorisation: (to be specified)
 - Period of Validity of the authorisation: __ years from the effective date unless revoked earlier for reasons specified as per the applicable Rules made under the Telecommunication Act 2023.
 - Scope of the authorisation: as specified in Part “__” of Chapter 8 of the Telecommunications (Authorisation for Provision of Main Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2025.
 - Service Area of the authorisation: (to be specified)

- (e) Authorised entity shall pay to the Central Government authorisation fee, spectrum charges linked to AGR, and other charges in accordance with the provisions of the applicable rules made under the Telecommunication Act 2023.
- (f) This authorisation is being granted on non-exclusive basis. Additional authorisations may be issued, for same or other types of telecommunication services, in the same Service Area from time to time in future without any restriction on number of authorised entities with same or different entry conditions.
- (g) This authorisation does not confer any right to assignment of spectrum. For use of spectrum to provision authorised telecommunication services, a separate specific frequency assignment shall be required from the Central Government as per the Rules notified under Section 4 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
- (h) Any misstatement or misrepresentation by an authorised entity found at any stage during the period of validity of the authorisation may lead to cancellation of the authorisation or imposition of any other penalty as found appropriate by the Central Government.

Date:

Name & signature of the representative of the Central Government
(On behalf of the President of India)

To,

(Name and Address of the entity)

[F. No. 24-07/2025-UBB]

DEVENDRA KUMAR RAI, Jt. Secy.