

Government releases new Telecommunication Bill for public consultation

New Delhi, September 23, 2022: The Ministry of Communications recently released the new Telecommunications Bill 2022 as a step towards designing a new telecom framework in India. The Bill seeks to consolidate and replace three telecom legislations -- Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 and The Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Protection) Act, 1950, a legacy of the colonial era.

The thrust of the Bill to ease telecom infrastructure expansion and strengthen its quality are the key positives. The intent to enable innovation through regulatory sandbox and the focus to promote an ecosystem for sharing, trading and leasing of spectrum, and the flexibility in making it available for various use case is also welcome.

Commenting on the new Telecommunication Bill, 2022, Ashish Aggarwal, Vice President, Public Policy, NASSCOM, said *“Given that the Bill leaves a lot to be covered through the regulations, it should formalise the concept of risk-based obligations and a consultation based, transparent and responsive, regulation making process. This could, say, guide the framing of regulations for different types of licenses. The final Bill should aim to minimise regulatory burden, uncertainty, and overlaps across different laws in the innovation rich value-added services. This will be the key for start-ups and SMEs in the digital space. We have rolled out our internal consultations with the industry to finalise our feedback.”*

We expect the Bill to be suitably strengthened through a process of transparent and meaningful consultation with the stakeholders. A future ready Telecommunication Bill will be an important step towards designing a framework which supports regulatory stability, investment, and innovation in the telecom sector.

About NASSCOM

The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM®) is the premier trade body and chamber of commerce of the Tech industry in India and comprises over 3000-member companies. Our membership spans across the entire spectrum of the industry from startups to multinationals and from products to services, Global Capability Centres to Engineering firms. Guided by India's vision to become a leading digital economy globally, NASSCOM focuses on accelerating the pace of transformation of the industry to emerge as the preferred enablers for global digital transformation. Our strategic imperatives are to reskill and upskill India's IT workforce to ensure that talent is future-ready in terms of new-age skills, strengthen the innovation quotient across industry verticals, create new market opportunities - both international and domestic, drive policy advocacy to advance innovation and ease of doing business, and build the industry narrative with focus on Talent, Trust and Innovation. And, in everything we do, we will continue to champion the need for diversity and equal opportunity.

Vaibhav Gogia | Arnab Chakraborty

Kavita Doshi

NASSCOM Press Office – Genesis BCW

+91 9015222095 | +91 9140558968

Vaibhav.gogia@genesis-bcw.com | arnab.chakraborty@genesis-bcw.com

NASSCOM

+91 120 4990200

kavita@nasscom.in