

**TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA
EXTRAORDINARY PART III SECTION 4
TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
NOTIFICATION**

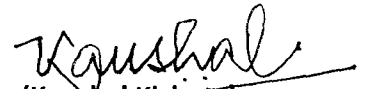
New Delhi, the 31 March 2022.

No. C-3/7/(5)/2021-FEA-1- In exercise of the powers conferred upon it under sub-section (2) of section 11, read with sub-clause (i) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of the said section, of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997), the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India hereby makes the following
Order further to amend the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999, namely: -

**THE TELECOMMUNICATION TARIFF (SIXTY SEVENTH AMENDMENT) ORDER,
2022
(02 of 2022)**

1. Short title, extent and commencement:
 - (1) This Order may be called the Telecommunication Tariff (Sixty Seventh Amendment) Order, 2022.
 - (2) This Order shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.
2. In clause 6 of the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999, -----
 - (a) sub-clause (xii) shall be deleted;
 - (b) after 60 days from the date of commencement of this Order, after sub-clause (xi), the following sub-clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(xii) Every Telecom Service Provider shall offer at least one Plan Voucher, one Special Tariff Voucher and one Combo Voucher which shall be renewable on the same date of every month and if the date of such renewal is not available in a month, the date of renewal shall be the last date of that month.”


(Kaushal Kishore)
Advisor (F&EA)

Note.1. – The Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4 under notification No.99/3 dated 9th March, 1999, and subsequently amended as given below: -

Amendment No.	Notification No. and Date
1 st	301-4/99-TRAI (Econ) dated 30.3.1999
2 nd	301-4/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 31.5.1999
3 rd	301-4/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 31.5.1999
4 th	301-4/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 28.7.1999
5 th	301-4/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 17.9.1999
6 th	301-4/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 30.9.1999
7 th	301-8/2000-TRAI(Econ) dated 30.3.2000
8 th	301-8/2000-TRAI(Econ) dated 31.7.2000
9 th	301-8/2000-TRAI(Econ) dated 28.8.2000
10 th	306-1/99-TRAI(Econ) dated 9.11.2000
11 th	310-1(5)/TRAI-2000 dated 25.1.2001
12 th	301-9/2000-TRAI(Econ) dated 25.1.2001
13 th	303-4/TRAI-2001 dated 1.5.2001
14 th	306-2/TRAI-2001 dated 24.5.2001
15 th	310-1(5)/TRAI-2000 dated 20.7.2001
16 th	310-5(17)/2001-TRAI(Econ) dated 14.8.2001
17 th	301/2/2002-TRAI(Econ) dated 22.1.2002
18 th	303/3/2002-TRAI(Econ) dated 30.1.2002
19 th	303/3/2002-TRAI(Econ) dated 28.2.2002
20 th	312-7/2001-TRAI(Econ) 14.3.2002
21 st	301-6/2002-TRAI(Econ) dated 13.6.2002
22 nd	312-5/2002-TRAI(Eco) dated 4.7.2002
23 rd	303/8/2002-TRAI(Econ) dated 6.9.2002
24 th	306-2/2003-Econ dated 24.1.2003
25 th	306-2/2003-Econ dated 12.3.2003
26 th	306-2/2003-Econ dated 27.3.2003
27 th	303/6/2003-TRAI(Econ) dated 25.4.2003
28 th	301-51/2003-Econ dated 5.11.2003
29 th	301-56/2003-Econ dated 3.12.2003
30 th	301-4/2004(Econ) dated 16.1.2004
31 st	301-2/2004-Eco dated 7.7.2004
32 nd	301-37/2004-Eco dated 7.10.2004
33 rd	301-31/2004-Eco dated 8.12.2004

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34 th	310-3(1)/2003-Eco dated 11.3.2005
35 th	310-3(1)/2003-Eco dated 31.3.2005
36 th	312-7/2003-Eco dated 21.4.2005
37 th	312-7/2003-Eco dated 2.5.2005
38 th	312-7/2003-Eco dated 2.6.2005
39 th	310-3(1)/2003-Eco dated 8.9.2005
40 th	310-3(1)/2003-Eco dated 16.9.2005
41 st	310-3(1)/2003-Eco dated 29.11.2005
42 nd	301-34/2005-Eco dated 7.3.2006
43 rd	301-2/2006-Eco dated 21.3.2006
44 th	301-34/2006-Eco dated 24.1.2007
45 th	301-18/2007-Eco dated 5.6.2007
46 th	301-36/2007-Eco dated 24.1.2008
47 th	301-14/2008-Eco dated 17.3.2008
48 th	301-31/2007-Eco dated 1.9.2008
49 th	301-25/2009-ER dated 20.11.2009
50 th	301-24/2012-ER dated 19.4.2012
51 st	301-26/2011-ER dated 19.4.2012
52 nd	301-41/2012-F&EA dated 19.09.2012
53 rd	301-39/2012-F&EA dated 1.10.2012
54 th	301-59/2012-F&EA dated 05.11.2012
55 th	301-10/2012-F&EA dated 17.06.2013
56 th	301-26/2012-ER dated 26.11.2013
57 th	312-2/2013-F&EA dated 14.07.2014
58 th	312-2/2013- F&EA dated 01.08.2014
59 th	310-5 (2)/2013-F&EA dated 21.11.2014
60 th	301-16/2014-F&EA dated 09.04.2015
61 st	301-30/2016-F&EA dated 22.11.2016
62 nd	301-30/2016-F&EA dated 27.12.2016
63 rd	312-1/2017-F&EA dated 16.02.2018
64 th	301-20/2018-F&EA dated 24.09.2018
65 th	301-03/2020-F& EA dated 03.06.2020
66 th	C-3/7/(5)/2021-FEA-1- dated 27.01.2022

Note 2. – The Explanatory Memorandum explains the reason for the Telecommunication Tariff (Sixty Seventh Amendment) Order, 2022.

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

TRAI has inserted sub clauses (xi) and (xii) in clause 6 of TTO, 1999 which provides that:

(xi) Every Telecom Service Provider shall offer at least one Plan Voucher, one Special Tariff Voucher and one Combo Voucher having a validity of thirty days.

(xii) Every Telecom Service Provider shall offer at least one Plan Voucher, one Special Tariff Voucher and one Combo Voucher which shall be renewable on the same date of every month.

In Response to TTO (66th Amendment) Order, TRAI is in receipt of correspondence from BSNL/VIL/COAI which are as follows:

BSNL

If a customer recharges on 29 / 30th or 31st Jan, what should be the next due date of recharge;

If Customer recharges on 31st March, 31st May, 31st August and 31st October, what should be the next due date for recharge

VIL

VIL has stated that they would be meeting the requirements as prescribed under above-said TTO (66th Amendment) Order, as per following:

With regard to at least one Plan Voucher, one Special Tariff Voucher and one Combo Voucher having a validity of thirty days, they would be meeting the requirement and have it in the market within two month time period as provided under the TTO 66th amendment, across all their licensed service areas. VIL is running 30 Days STV, currently priced at Rs 327 since 6 months across all of their licensed areas.

With regard to at least one Plan Voucher, one Special Tariff Voucher and one Combo voucher which shall be renewable on the same date of every month, they would be meeting the requirement and have the same in market within two month time period as provided under the TTO 66th amendment, across three licensed service areas. In the remaining licensed service areas, they are having technical feasibility issues, which are being worked upon and its resolution is expected to take more than two months as prescribed by TRAI. M/s VIL has given a tentative chart showing likely date of implementation for all LSAs which may extend up to May 2023.

Considering the above issues they have requested for extension of time to meet the provisions of TTO 66th amendment (recharge with same date of every month), till technical feasibility issue is sorted out in balance 19 licensed service areas.

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COAI

COAI is of the view that with regard to clause 6 (xii) of the TTO, any change to the tariff validity structure to make it renewable on same day of each month, will require gigantic efforts in terms of consumer awareness, huge change in prepaid billing systems, publications in own and 3rd party channels and retail channel education.

2. Further, as the days of a calendar month are not static (i.e. 28/29/30/31 days), customers recharge renewal date cannot be kept static for recharges performed on every day of the month. This will vary month-on-month depending upon the number of days in a particular month.

3. They have further stated that TSPs are in process of implementing the said TRAI order as per the below mentioned approach to avoid any consumer/process confusion pertaining to the number of the days in a particular month:

(a) The renewal date for all recharges performed from date 1 to 28th of any month would remain the same for each month of the year.

(b) The expiry of the tariff vouchers recharged on 29th/30th/31st of January would happen on 28th/29th of February.

(c) The expiry of the tariff vouchers recharged on 31st of March, May, Aug & Oct would happen on the subsequent months i.e. 30th April, June, Sept and Nov.

They have further submitted that the timeline of 2 months provided by TRAI in the implementation of the said Tariff Order dated 27th Jan 2022, is not adequate and suggested that TSPs need extra time for the implementation of TTO (66 Amendment) Order and clarification on issue of recharge on same day.

Views of TRAI:

There are broadly two issues which have been raised by TSPs and needs consideration:

(i) The next date of recharge in case subscriber does his recharge on 31st of the month and the next date of recharge in case subscriber recharges the voucher on any day between 29th Jan to 31st January.

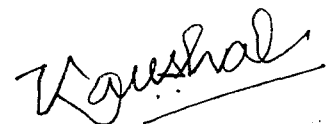
(ii) M/s VIL has stated that due to technical issues i.e consolidation of existing 4 partners to 1 partner in coming partners which may continue till May 2023, they will be implementing same day recharge voucher requirement in phases and in the interim had suggested as alternative that they can launch a 31 days' voucher which will be beneficial to customer.

In this case it is submitted that since this practice of recharge on same date of every month is in practice in other countries also, we have gone through the practice of M/s Verizon which is as given below:

"In the case of February, if your monthly renewal date is on the 29th, 30th or 31st, we'll charge your Auto Pay on the last day of that month".

In view of above, taking in view of submissions of all stakeholders, the Authority has decided the following:

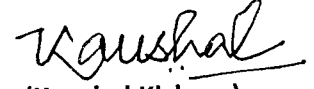
(i) To modify sub-clause (xii) of clause 6 as follows:



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“Every Telecom Service Provider shall offer at least one Plan Voucher, one Special Tariff Voucher and one Combo Voucher which shall be renewable on the same date of every month and if the date of such renewal is not available in a month, the date of renewal shall be the last date of that month.”

- (ii) To extend the date of implementation with above modification by 60 days.



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