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TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Notification

New Delhi 5th November, 2026

The Register of Interconnect Agreements (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026

(10 of 2026)

No. RG-1/(1)/2026-NSL-I ---In exercise of the powers conferred upon it under section 36, read with sub-clauses (vii) and (viii) of sub-section (1)(b) of section 11 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997), the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India hereby makes the following regulations further to amend the Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations, 1999 (2 of 1999), namely:-

1. (1) These regulations may be called the Register of Interconnect Agreements (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026.
(2) These regulations shall come into force from 1st January, 2027.

2. In regulation 2 of the Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations, 1999 (2 of 1999) (hereinafter referred to as the principal regulations), --

(a) clause (vii) shall be deleted;

(b) after clause (viii), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(viii-a) "user" means a person using a telecommunication service, but does not include a person providing such telecommunication service or telecommunication network;"

3. In regulation 3 of the principal regulations, in sub-regulation (i) after the words, "interconnecting service providers," and before the words "service areas of their operation", the words "telecommunication service authorisation specified under the interconnect agreements," shall be inserted.

4. For regulation 5 of the principal regulations, the following regulation shall be substituted, namely:-

"**5. Registration of Interconnect Agreements.**— All service providers shall, through the portal established by the Authority for this purpose, register with the Authority any Interconnect Agreement to which they are parties and any modifications thereto, as detailed hereunder:-

(a) any such agreement which is in force as on 1st January, 2027 shall be submitted within a period of fifteen days from such date; and

(b) in all other cases, within fifteen days of the execution or modification of such agreements."

5. For regulation 6 of the principal regulations, the following regulation shall be substituted, namely:-

"**6. Reporting.**— All service providers shall furnish to the Authority a text-searchable electronic copy of each Interconnect Agreement and each modification thereto, in portable document format (PDF) and also in such other form as may be specified by the Authority, from time to time, within the period specified in regulation 5."

सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
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नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

6. For regulation 7 of the principal regulations, the following regulation shall be substituted, namely:-

"7. The Authority may from time to time specify the formats for seeking disaggregated information of such parts of the Interconnect Agreements having bearing on technical standards/specifications relating to interconnection, quality of service, fault resolving procedures, downtimes, access charges, port charges, revenue sharing arrangements, area of operation and user-related information such as range of services and the like also to be included in the Register and every service provider shall furnish such information in the format and within the period specified by the Authority."

7. In regulation 8 of the principal regulations, for the words "The Register shall" appearing at the beginning, the words "Part III of the Register shall" shall be substituted.

8. In regulation 9 of the principal regulations, for the words, "Under Secretary (Commercial), TRAI or any other Officer, who may be", the words "Officer" shall be substituted.

9. In regulation 11 of the principal regulations, --

(a) after the words, "may also allow", the words, "application for inspection of the Register," shall be inserted;

(b) after the words, "access to", the words, "Part III of" shall be inserted;

(c) after the words, "the Register", the words, ", and obtaining copies or extracts thereof" shall be inserted; and

(d) for the words, "the web-site", the words, "the portal" shall be substituted.

10. In regulation 12 of the principal regulations, --

(a) in sub-regulation (i), for the words "Rs. 50 per hour", the words "one thousand five hundred rupees per hour or part thereof" shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-regulation (ii), for the words "Rs. 20", the words "five hundred rupees" shall be substituted.

11. After regulation 12 of the principal regulations, the following regulations shall be inserted, namely:-

"**12A. Consequences for contravention of the provisions of these regulations.—**

(1) If any service provider contravenes the provisions of regulation 5, regulation 6 or regulation 7, it shall, without prejudice to any penalty which may be imposed under the terms and conditions of its license or authorisation or any other action that may be taken under any Act, or the rules or regulations, or orders made, or directions issued, thereunder, be liable to pay an amount, by way of financial disincentive, as provided in Schedule-I to these regulations.

(2) No order for payment of financial disincentive shall be made by the Authority unless the service provider has been given a reasonable opportunity of representing against the contravention observed by the Authority.

(3) The Authority may decide not to impose any financial disincentive, or impose a lower amount of financial disincentive, for reasons to be recorded in writing.

12B. Payment of financial disincentives.— (1) The amount payable by way of financial disincentive under these regulations shall be remitted to such head of account as may be specified by the Authority.

(2) If the service provider fails to make payment of financial disincentive under regulation 12A, within a period of twenty-one days from the date of issue of the order for payment of financial disincentive or as stipulated in the order for payment of financial disincentive, it shall be liable to pay simple interest at a rate

सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

which shall be two percent (2%) above the one year Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) of the State Bank of India prevailing as on the beginning of the Financial Year in which last day of the stipulated period falls.

Explanation: For the purposes of this sub-regulation, a part of the month shall be reckoned as a full calendar month for calculation of interest and a month shall be reckoned as an English calendar month.

12C. Review.— The provisions of these regulations may be reviewed by the Authority as and when required."

12. For regulation 13 of the principal regulations, the following regulation shall be substituted, namely:-

"13. Removal of Difficulties.— In order to remove any difficulties in the interpretation or application of the provisions of these regulations, the Authority may issue necessary clarifications or guidelines, which shall be final and binding."

13. After regulation 13 of the principal regulations, the following Schedule shall be inserted, namely:-

"Schedule-I
[See regulation 12A]

Sl. No.	**Contravention under regulation**	**Amount of financial disincentive for each instance of contravention**
1	Contravention of regulation 7	(i) Up to fifty thousand rupees per day for delay up to fifteen days; and (ii) Up to one lakh rupees per day for each day of delay beyond fifteen days: Provided that the total amount of financial disincentive under item (i) and item (ii) above shall not exceed rupees twenty-five lakh per Service Area for each instance of contravention.
2	Contravention of regulation 5 or regulation 6	(i) Up to one lakh rupees per day for delay up to fifteen days; and (ii) Up to two lakh rupees per day for each day of delay beyond fifteen days: Provided that the total amount of financial disincentive under item (i) and item (ii) above shall not exceed rupees one crore per Service Area for each instance of contravention.

"

5/11/2024

(Pushpendra Kumar Singh)
Secretary (Incharge), TRAI

सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

Note 1: The principal regulations were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4 vide notification No. 409-1/98-TRAI (Comm.) dated 31st August, 1999, and amended vide:

(i) Notification No. 11-11/2004/B&CS dated 3rd February, 2004 (2 of 2004)

(ii) Notification No. 11-11/2004-B&CS dated 31st December, 2004 (14 of 2004)

(iii) Notification No. 306-3/2005-QOS dated 4th March, 2005 (5 of 2005)

Note 2: The explanatory memorandum explains the objects and reasons of "The Register of Interconnect Agreements (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026."

सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

Explanatory Memorandum

to

The Register of Interconnect Agreements (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026

1. Introduction

1.1. Interconnection in telecommunications refers to commercial and technical arrangements that allow authorised entities or licensees to connect their telecommunication equipment, networks, and services, enabling their users to access the users, services, and networks of other authorized entities or licensees.

1.2. The Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations, 1999, were notified on 31st August 1999, and came into force on 1st September 1999, to establish a regulatory framework for registration of interconnect agreements entered into between service providers. These regulations prescribe the modalities for the maintenance of the register of interconnect agreements between service providers and matters connected therewith. These regulations cover important aspects relating to the submission and registration of interconnect agreements, maintenance of the register by the Authority, contents of the interconnect agreement to be kept confidential, inspection of interconnect agreements, and related processes. These regulations were subsequently amended on 3rd February 2004, 31st December 2004, and 4th March 2005.

1.3. This Explanatory Memorandum sets out the background, rationale, and considerations underlying the Register of Interconnect Agreements (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, to enable stakeholders to understand the Authority's approach in formulating these regulations.

2. Present exercise to review the regulatory framework for the register of interconnect agreements in India

2.1. The Authority issued a pre-consultation paper dated 3rd April 2025 and subsequently issued a consultation paper on the 'Review of existing TRAI Regulations on Interconnection matters' on 10th November 2025 to seek the views of stakeholders on different aspects of these Regulations. The stakeholders were requested to submit their written comments and counter-comments by the extended last dates of 15th December 2025 and 29th December 2025, respectively. An open house discussion was held with the stakeholders on 28th January 2026. The issues raised in the consultation paper, submissions of stakeholders through comments and counter-comments and during the open house discussion, have been examined in the succeeding paragraphs.

3. Analysis of the issues related to the regulatory framework for the register of interconnect agreements

3.1. In the consultation paper dated 10th November 2025, the Authority sought views from the stakeholders on the various issues related to the regulatory framework for the register of interconnect agreements. The relevant issues which have been discussed in this explanatory memorandum are as follows:

a. Examination of the need for online submission, inspection, and obtaining a copy of the relevant portions of the interconnect agreements and modifications thereto.
b. Examination of the fee for seeking inspection and charges for obtaining copies of the relevant portions from the register.
c. Necessary financial disincentive framework.

सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

A large number of views were received from stakeholders in response to the questions in the consultation process. The submissions received from stakeholders have been carefully considered by the Authority and are summarized in the subsequent sections, followed by analysis and decisions thereon.

3.2. During the consultation process, the stakeholders were invited to provide their views on whether the current provisions for submission, inspection and obtaining copies of interconnect agreements under 'The Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations, 1999' using floppy disks and print copies should be dispensed with and made online, along with justification.

3.3. Another question sought stakeholders' views on necessary financial disincentives in interconnection regulations to deter non-compliance, along with their quantification.

3.4. **Examination of the need for online submission, inspection, obtaining copies of relevant portions of interconnect agreements and modifications thereto, review of fees for inspection, charges for obtaining copies, and necessary financial disincentive framework.**

3.4.1. The existing relevant sections of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (as amended from time to time), and regulatory framework, in respect of these issues are, *inter alia,* as follows:

3.4.2. Sub-clauses (vii) and (viii) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of Section 11 under the heading 'POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY' of the TRAI Act, contain the following:

> *"(b) discharge the following functions, namely:-*
> ...
> *(vii) maintain register of inter-connect agreements and of all such other matters as may be provided in the regulations;*
> *(viii) keep register maintained under clause (vii) open for inspection to any member of public on payment of such fee and compliance of such other requirement as may be provided in the regulations;"*

3.4.3. Regarding submission of interconnect agreements and modifications thereto, regulation 6 of the Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations, 1999, as amended from time to time, provides for the following:

> *"6. All service providers shall furnish to the Authority two copies each of the Interconnect Agreements along with modification(s), if any, thereto in print form, duly authenticated, along with a soft copy of it in a floppy/diskette of 3.5" size in Microsoft Word software and also in such other form as may be prescribed from time to time."*

3.4.4. In respect of obtaining extracts of the relevant portions of the interconnect agreement and modifications thereto, of the part III of the register, regulation 8, regulation 9, and regulation 10 of the Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations, 1999, as amended from time to time, provide for the following:

> *"8. The Register shall be open for inspection by any member of the public on payment of prescribed fee and on his fulfilling such other conditions*

सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

as may be provided for in these Regulations or may be notified by the TRAI from time to time.

9. Any person seeking inspection of the Register shall apply to the Under Secretary (Commercial), TRAI or any other Officer, who may be designated for the purpose by the Authority, detailing therein the information he/she seeks.

10. The designated officer shall allow inspection of the Register and also make available extracts of the relevant portions of the Register on payment of such fee as may be prescribed from time to time."

3.4.5. Regulation 12 of the Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations, 1999, as amended from time to time, contains the following regarding the fees for seeking inspection and charges for obtaining copies of extracts from the relevant portions of the register:

"12. (i) There shall be levied a fee of Rs. 50 per hour for inspection of the Register.

(ii) A fee of Rs. 20 per page shall be charged for copies of extracts from the Register."

a) Views of stakeholders on the need for online submission, inspection, obtaining copies of relevant portions of interconnect agreements and modifications thereto, review of fees for inspection, charges for obtaining copies, and necessary financial disincentive framework.

3.4.6. Many stakeholders submitted that the existing system of floppy disk and paper-based processes of submission of interconnect agreements and modifications thereto should be dispensed with, and needs to be transitioned to a fully digital, online framework. Stakeholders have emphasized that the current system is outdated and inefficient, and that it requires replacement with digital processes aligned with evolving technological and regulatory practices. Further, stakeholders have broadly supported the adoption of a centralized online portal to facilitate end-to-end digital processes, including submission, acknowledgment, tracking, inspection, and access to interconnect agreements.

3.4.7. A few stakeholders have further highlighted the importance of adopting submission of an electronic copy of documents in place of wet-signed physical documents as submission of physical documents leads to delays and inefficiencies.

3.4.8. Some stakeholders have also emphasized the need for submission of searchable documents in place of non-searchable scanned copies, as searchable scanned documents facilitate efficiency in reviewing and retrieving information therein.

3.4.9. Regarding the timeline for submission, a few stakeholders proposed that electronic copies of interconnect agreements should be submitted through the TRAI portal within 15 or 7 days of execution.

3.4.10. Regarding the fees for seeking inspection and for obtaining copies of the relevant portions of the Register, many stakeholders submitted that any associated fees should be nominal, reasonable, and clearly specified.

सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

3.4.11. A few stakeholders recommended facilitating public access to non-confidential records through electronic means only and dispensing with inspection and copying fees in the digital environment.

3.4.12. Regarding the incorporation of provisions for necessary financial disincentives into interconnection regulations to deter non-compliance, some stakeholders stated that financial disincentives are not required, arguing that a mature telecom market and existing regulatory provisions are sufficient to ensure compliance without additional penalties. Other stakeholders argued in favour of incorporation of a necessary financial disincentive framework. One stakeholder stated that appropriate provisions for financial disincentives should be incorporated into the regulation to deter non-compliance by private and PSU operators alike. Other stakeholders recommended financial disincentives as a deterrent to ensure compliance with inter-operator rights and obligations. They emphasized that financial disincentives should be applied only in extreme cases, after giving service providers an opportunity for a hearing and conclusive proof of non-compliance.

b) Analysis of the issues and views of the Authority on the need for online submission, inspection, obtaining copies of relevant portions of interconnect agreements and modifications thereto, review of fees for inspection, charges for obtaining copies, and necessary financial disincentive framework.

3.4.13. The existing provisions requiring submission of paper-based agreements together with soft copies on 3.5" floppy/diskette are obsolete, technologically outdated, and no longer aligned with prevailing practices. The continued reliance on physical documentation and outdated storage media results in procedural inefficiencies. These inefficiencies can be avoided by online submissions and dispensing with the process of physical submissions of interconnect agreements. Accordingly, it is decided that submission of interconnect agreements and modifications thereto, under these regulations, shall henceforth be made only in electronic form through a portal. This framework is expected to facilitate streamlined submission, handling, maintenance, and retrieval of records, while reducing dependence on physical documentation and outdated technological formats.

3.4.14. In order to ensure continued accessibility and convenience for the public, inspection of the register and obtaining extracts from the relevant portions thereof should be permitted in both physical and electronic modes through a portal. Enabling access through electronic mode, in addition to the existing physical mode, would provide greater flexibility, facilitate efficient retrieval and dissemination of information, and promote ease of access for users. Further, provisions governing the inspection of the register and obtaining extracts therefrom shall remain similar for both physical mode and electronic mode through a portal.

3.4.15. It is observed that text-searchable electronic documents in standard formats, such as portable document format (PDF), would enhance ease of processing and efficiency in record management. Accordingly, it is decided that all service providers shall submit a text-searchable PDF copy of their interconnect agreements and modifications thereto on the TRAI portal within the period specified in these regulations.

3.4.16. The proposal to shorten the timeline for submitting interconnect agreements has been examined. In this regard, some of the stakeholders have suggested a timeline of fifteen days from the date of execution of the interconnect agreement, whereas some other stakeholders have suggested a

सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

timeline of seven days. It is noted that the existing timeline of thirty days was prescribed at a time when the interconnect agreements were required to be submitted in physical form, along with a soft copy in a floppy or diskette. It has now been decided that the interconnect agreements shall be submitted in an online manner through a portal. Accordingly, the time needed for submission would be substantially reduced. Considering this, a timeline of fifteen days from the date of execution or modification of the interconnect agreement would be appropriate in an online environment. At the same time, the service providers will be free to submit the interconnect agreements earlier than the prescribed timeline, if they are in a position to do so.

3.4.17. It is noted that while the Authority may specify formats for seeking disaggregated information relating to interconnect agreements under regulation 7, the existing provisions do not explicitly provide for the furnishing of such information within a specified timeframe. Accordingly, a provision has been inserted requiring service providers to furnish such information in the specified format and within the period specified by the Authority, so as to facilitate effective maintenance and timely updation of the Register.

3.4.18. With reference to the fee for inspection of the register and charges for obtaining copies of extracts from the register, it is noted that the prescribed fees for inspection and charges for obtaining copies of the relevant portions of the Register have remained unchanged since these regulations were notified in 1999.

3.4.19. It has been decided to rationalize and align the applicable fee for obtaining copies of the relevant portions of the Register with the fee prescribed under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Access to Information) Regulation, 2005, in order to ensure uniformity of the applicable charges between the said Regulation and the Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations, 1999. Accordingly, it is decided to revise the fee for obtaining copies of extracts from the Register and inspection of documents under the Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations, 1999.

3.4.20. It is recognized that the inspection of records and provision of extracts, whether in physical or electronic form, involves administrative and operational costs in maintaining and facilitating such arrangements. Accordingly, a reasonable and standardized fee framework remains necessary. It is therefore decided that the fee structure for inspection of, and obtaining copies of extracts from, the relevant portions of the Register shall be rupees one thousand five hundred per hour or part thereof, and rupees five hundred per page, respectively. Where the duration of inspection exceeds one hour, the fee shall be charged at the same rate for every additional hour or part thereof. This fee structure is broadly aligned with the fee structure prescribed under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Access to Information) Regulation, 2005.

3.4.21. It is noted that the term "consumer", as presently defined in these regulations, is not aligned with the terminology used in the current telecommunications framework. Accordingly, the definition of "consumer" has been replaced with the definition of "user" and consequential changes have been made to align the terminology used in these regulations with the current telecommunications framework and to ensure consistency across the regulatory framework.

सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

3.4.22. It has also been decided to include particulars of the telecommunication service authorisations specified in the interconnect agreements in Part I of the Register, to facilitate identification of the authorisations to which the registered agreements relate.

3.4.23. The Authority has examined the comments received from stakeholders regarding the necessary financial disincentive framework in the Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations, 1999, as amended from time to time. The financial disincentives play an important role in ensuring regulatory compliance by service providers, as well as in safeguarding the rights of service providers under the interconnection framework.

3.4.24. It is decided that financial disincentives be imposed on a case-by-case basis, after providing the concerned service provider a reasonable opportunity to present its explanation. It is also decided that the financial disincentive framework be introduced to ensure proportionality and deterrence. The quantum of financial disincentive should be reasonable and balanced so as to serve as an effective deterrent against non-compliance, without being either negligible or unduly burdensome.

3.4.25. The Authority has considered the nature and potential impact of non-compliance with the provisions of these regulations. The provisions covered under regulation 5 and regulation 6 relate to various aspects of submission of interconnect agreements and modifications to them for registration and inclusion in the Register. These requirements are important for keeping the Register complete, accurate and up to date. Any non-compliance with these regulations, i.e., failure to submit the interconnect agreement and modifications, within the period specified by the Authority, may directly and significantly affect the proper functioning of the interconnection framework. The Authority is, therefore, of the view that a higher financial disincentive is appropriate for non-compliance of regulation 5 or regulation 6.

3.4.26. On the other hand, regulation 7 relates to furnishing of disaggregated information in the prescribed formats pertaining to interconnect agreements. This information is important for maintaining the Register effectively and for implementing these regulations. However, non-compliance with these requirements, i.e., failure to furnish the information within the period specified by the Authority, generally has a comparatively limited direct impact on the interconnection framework. The Authority is, therefore, of the view that a lower financial disincentive is appropriate for non-compliance with regulation 7.

3.4.27. It has also been considered that a fixed financial disincentive, irrespective of the duration of the contravention, may not adequately distinguish between a short delay and continued non-compliance. Therefore, a graded financial disincentive has been prescribed, with a lower rate for delay up to fifteen days and a higher rate where the delay continues beyond fifteen days. The higher rate for prolonged delay is intended to encourage service providers to take timely corrective action and ensure compliance at the earliest.

3.4.28. For clarity, the maximum financial disincentive may be determined on an accumulated basis according to the number of days of delay. For example, in the case of a contravention where the applicable maximum per day rates are ₹50,000 per day for the first fifteen days and ₹1,00,000 per day for each day beyond fifteen days, if the delay is for twenty days, the financial disincentive would

सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

be ₹7.5 lakh for the first fifteen days and ₹5 lakh for the next five days, making a total maximum financial disincentive of ₹12.5 lakh, subject to the applicable ceiling.

3.4.29. At the same time, there should be a reasonable ceiling on the financial disincentive so that the financial liability does not continue to increase indefinitely. Accordingly, an overall ceiling of rupees twenty-five lakh per Service Area for each instance of failure to furnish, within the period specified by the Authority, the information sought under regulation 7 and rupees one crore per Service Area for each instance of contravention of regulation 5 or regulation 6 has been prescribed. To give effect to the above, the following Schedule has been incorporated for financial disincentive:

Schedule-I

Sl. No.	**Contravention under regulation**	**Amount of financial disincentive for each instance of contravention**
1	Contravention of regulation 7	(i) Up to fifty thousand rupees per day for delay up to fifteen days; and (ii) Up to one lakh rupees per day for each day of delay beyond fifteen days: Provided that the total amount of financial disincentive under item (i) and item (ii) above shall not exceed rupees twenty-five lakh per Service Area for each instance of contravention.
2	Contravention of regulation 5 or regulation 6	(i) Up to one lakh rupees per day for delay up to fifteen days; and (ii) Up to two lakh rupees per day for each day of delay beyond fifteen days: Provided that the total amount of financial disincentive under item (i) and item (ii) above shall not exceed rupees one crore per Service Area for each instance of contravention.

3.4.30. Also, the quantum of financial disincentive should not be determined solely by reference to the number of days of delay. The nature, extent, duration, frequency and impact of the contravention may vary from case to case and should also be considered while determining the quantum of financial disincentive.

3.4.31. A service provider should be given a reasonable opportunity to represent against the contravention before financial disincentive is imposed. This will ensure fairness and enable the Authority to consider the submissions of the service provider before determining the financial disincentive.

3.4.32. The financial disincentive imposed on a service provider should be paid within twenty-one days from the date of issue of the order or within the period specified in the order. To ensure timely payment and discourage delay, simple interest on the outstanding amount of financial disincentive has been provided in case of delayed payment. It is considered that linking the rate of interest to the one-year Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) of State Bank of India, with an additional two percent, would provide an objective basis for determining the applicable rate. Accordingly, the service provider shall be liable to pay simple interest on the outstanding amount at the said rate applicable at the beginning of the financial year in which the last day of the stipulated

सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

period falls. It has also been provided that a part of the month shall be reckoned as a full calendar month for calculation of interest and a month shall be reckoned as an English calendar month.

3.4.33. The Authority is of the view that the regulatory framework may require review from time to time and that issues relating to the interpretation or application of the provisions of these regulations may arise. Accordingly, provisions enabling review of these regulations and issuance of necessary clarifications or guidelines for removal of difficulties have been included.

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सचिव/Secretary
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi