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सचिव

**V. Raghunandan, ITS
Secretary**



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To

The Secretary

Department of Telecommunications

Ministry of Communications

Sanchar Bhawan

New Delhi

Subject: Recommendation on 'Improving Telecom Infrastructure in Northeastern States of India'

The Northeast states including Sikkim continue to grapple with a significant digital divide due to various reasons such as Inhospitable Terrain Conditions, Poor Availability of Power Supply, Transmission Media Related Limitations, Poor Return of Investment (RoI) prospects for TSPs and, Right of Way (RoW) related issues. While a number of initiatives has been taken by the Government of India to address these challenges, infrastructure gaps still persist in many places. This digital divide hampers the region's socio-economic growth, restricts access to essential services and information, and exacerbates the developmental gap between the Northeast and the rest of the country.

2. The Authority, suo-moto, held extensive consultations and interactions (including meetings, progress reviews, field visits, etc.) with major stakeholders such as TSPs (i.e., Airtel, RJIL, VIL), Infrastructure Providers, Telecom PSUs (i.e., BSNL, RailTel, PGCIL), State Government departments, DoT field units, USOF, Gram Panchayat Administrations, and Common Service Centres (CSCs) in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, and Tripura. These consultations were aimed to assess the current status of telecom infrastructure, issues in its deployment, and the policy measures required for further improvement to provide seamless connectivity to all the residents of the Northeastern States. Based on the aforementioned consultations, the Authority has formulated the subject recommendations with an aim to enhance telecom infrastructure in the NER, bridge the digital divide, unlocking economic potential, overcome geographical challenges, foster collaboration, and ensure national security.

3. A copy of the Recommendations on '**Improving Telecom Infrastructure in Northeastern States of India**' along with this letter have been placed on TRAI website www.traigov.in.

Encl: As above

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