

Priorities for Regulation and Public Policy in the mobile information society



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Outline

- Introduction
- Regulation and Public Policy Process in India
- Priorities in Regulation and Policy
- Conclusion

Introduction

- For Telecom Services
 - India divided into 4 Metro Towns and 18 Telecom Circles
 - Around 50 million fixed line and 26 million mobile subscribers
 - Teledensity today is 7% -- objective to achieve 15% by 2010
- Telecom Services opened up to multiple service providers
 - BSNL/MTNL, Reliance, Tata, Bharati
 - License based on Unified Access Service concept
 - Revenue Sharing basis includes **Universal Service Contribution**
- Today network is mostly Voice and low speed data oriented
 - Overlay Optical Fibre Network in towns with 100K line capacity for High Speed Data

Regulation and Public Policy Process

- Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC)
 - Basic Policy making body
 - Licensing body

- Telecom regulatory Authority (TRAI)
 - Interconnection Issues, Tariff setting and QoS

- Telecom Dispute Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)
 - to deal with disputes among Service Providers, MIC & TRAI

National Telecom Policy 1999

- Major aspects of policy are
 - Modern and Efficient Telecom Infrastructure for both Urban and Rural Areas
 - To provide level playing ground amongst players
 - Telecom coverage to all villages
 - Provide High Speed Data and Multimedia capability

Steps taken to achieve this Policy

- Unified Access Service License from Nov 2003
 - existing players permitted to migrate
- Inter-circle and Intra-circle mergers permitted
 - minimum three players in a circle
 - at the time of merger, the share of merged entity < 66%
 - maximum of 49% Foreign equity for any service-provider
- No Technology Restriction for providing services
- Proper utilisation of spectrum
- Universal Service Obligation Fund set up for Development of Rural Sector
 - Grameen Sanchar Sevak Scheme
 - Internet Dhaba (kiosks) with NGOs and Government support

Regulatory Aspects

- Interconnection Issues
- Merger and Acquisition Guidelines
- Tariff Structure
- Quality of Service guidelines

Conclusion

- Urban and Semi-urban areas
 - develop infrastructure for providing all modern telecom facilities
- Rural Areas
 - policies such that service providers cover all villages
- Build environment for healthy competition amongst service providers
- cost based tariff...