Bare Act

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The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997

Corrida Legal presents the Bare Act Series, sourced from official texts and supported with an executive summary designed to help readers grasp the essence of the law with ease.

NOTE:

An Executive Summary of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (TRAI Act) is included towards the end of this document, right after the full bare act of the statute. This summary helps professionals, business owners, compliance officers, HR managers, legal practitioners, and students quickly understand the key provisions relating to the establishment and powers of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), regulation of telecom services, licensing framework, tariff determination, interconnection and quality of service standards, dispute resolution mechanisms, appellate procedures before TDSAT, penalties for non-compliance, and enforcement mechanisms, without having to read the entire text.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 Summary provides a clear, practical, and time-saving guide for anyone looking to understand India's telecom regulatory framework, ensure compliance with TRAI regulations, manage telecom operations effectively, and stay aligned with statutory requirements under the TRAI Act bare act.

THE TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA ACT, 1997

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

SECTIONS

CHAPTER II

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

CHAPTER III

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY

CHAPTER IV

APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

SECTIONS

19. Orders passed by Appellate Tribunal to be executable as a decree.
20. Penalty for wilful failure to comply with orders of Appellate Tribunal.

CHAPTER V

FINANCE, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

21. Grants by Central Government.
22. Fund.
23. Accounts and audit.
24. Furnishing of returns, etc., to Central Government.

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS

25. Power of Central Government to issue directions.
26. Members, officers and employees of Authority to be public servants.
27. Bar of jurisdiction.
28. Protection of action taken in good faith.
29. Penalty for contravention of directions of Authority.
30. Offences by companies.
31. Offences by Government Departments.
32. Exemption from tax on wealth and income.
33. Delegation.
34. Cognizance of offences.
35. Power to make rules.
36. Power to make regulations.
37. Rules and regulations to be laid before Parliament.
38. Application of certain laws.
39. Power to remove difficulties.
40. Repeal and saving.

THE TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA ACT, 1997

ACT NO. 24 OF 1997

[28*th March*, 1997.]

An Act to provide for the establishment of the [1][Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal to regulate the telecommunication services, adjudicate disputes, dispose of appeals and to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector, to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector] and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-eighth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.—(*1*) This Act may be called the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 25th day of January, 1997.

2. Definitions.—(*1*) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "appointed day" means the date with effect from which the Authority is established under sub-section (*1*) of section 3;

[2][(*aa*) "Appellate Tribunal" means the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal established under section 14;]

(b) "Authority" means the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India established under sub-section (1) of section 3;

(c) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Authority appointed under sub-section (*3*) of section 3;

(d) "Fund" means the Fund constituted under sub-section (*1*) of section 22;

(e) "licensee" means any person licensed under sub-section (*1*) of section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885) for providing specified public telecommunication services;

[2][(*ea*) "licensor" means the Central Government or the telegraph authority who grants a licence under section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885);]

(f) "member" means a member of the Authority appointed under sub-section (*3*) of section 3 and includes the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson;

(g) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;

(h) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(i) "regulations" means regulations made by the Authority under this Act;

(j) "service provider" means the [3][Government as a service provider] and includes a licensee;

(k) "telecommunication service" means service of any description (including electronic mail, voice mail, data services, audio tex services, video tex services, radio paging and cellular mobile telephone services) which is made available to users by means of any transmission or reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature, by wire, radio, visual or other electro-magnetic means but shall not include broadcasting services.

1. Subs. by Act 2 of 2000, s. 2, for "Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to regulate the telecommunication services," (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
2. Ins. by s. 3, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
3. Subs. by s. 3, *ibid.,* for "Government" (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).

[1][Provided that the Central Government may notify other service to be telecommunication service including broadcasting services.]

(2) Words and expressions used and not defined in this Act but defined in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885) or the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 (17 of 1933), shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in those Acts.

(3) Any reference in this Act to a law which is not in force in the State of Jammu and Kashmir* shall in relation to that State be construed as a reference to the corresponding law, if any, in that State.

CHAPTER II

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

3. Establishment and incorporation of Authority.—(*1*) With effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification appoint, there shall be established, for the purposes of this Act, an Authority to be called the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued.

[2][(*3*) The Authority shall consist of a Chairperson, and not more than two whole-time members and not more than two part-time members, to be appointed by the Central Government.]

(4) The head office of the Authority shall be at New Delhi.

[3][4. Qualifications for appointment of Chairperson and other members.—The Chairperson and other members of the Authority shall be appointed by the Central Government from amongst persons who have special knowledge of, and professional experience in, telecommunication, industry, finance, accountancy, law, management or consumer affairs:

[4][Provided that a person who is, or has been, in the service of Government shall not be appointed—

(a) as a Chairperson unless such person has held the post of Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the Central Government or the State Government; or.

(b) as a member unless such person has held the post of Additional Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the Central Government or the State Government:

Provided further that a person who is, or has been, in a service other than that of Government, shall be appointed—

(a) as a Chairperson if such person has at least thirty years of professional experience and has served as a member of the board of directors or a chief executive of a company in the areas as specified in this section; or

(b) as a Member if such person has at least twenty-five years of professional experience and has served as a member of the board of directors or chief executive of a company in the areas as specified in this section.]]

5. Term of office, conditions of service, etc., of Chairperson and other members.—(*1*) Before appointing any person as the Chairperson or member, the Central Government shall satisfy itself that the person does not have any such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as such member.

[5][(*2*) The Chairperson and other members shall hold office for a term not exceeding three years, as the Central Government may notify in this behalf, from the date on which they enter upon their offices or until they attain the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

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1. Ins. by Act 2 of 2000, s. 3 (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
2. Subs. by s. 4, *ibid.,* for sub-section (*3*) (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
3. Subs. by s. 5, *ibid.,* for section 4 (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
4. Subs. by Act 44 of 2023, s. 59(b) for the proviso (w.e.f. 5-7-2024).
5. Subs. by Act 2 of 2000, s. 6, for sub-sections (*2*) and (*3*) (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).

*. *Vide* notification No. S.O. 3912(E), dated 30th October, 2019, this Act is made applicable to the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union territory of Ladakh.

(3) On the commencement of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000 (2 of 2000), a person appointed as Chairperson of the Authority and every other person appointed as member and holding office as such immediately before such commencement shall vacate their respective offices and such Chairperson and such other members shall be entitled to claim compensation not exceeding three months pay and allowances for the premature termination of the term of their offices or of any contract of service.]

(4) The employee of the Government on his [1][selection as the Chairperson or whole-time member] shall have to retire from service before [2][joining as the Chairperson or a whole-time member, as the case may be].

(5) The salary and allowances payable to and the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and [3][whole-time members] shall be such as may be prescribed.

(6) The salary, allowances and other conditions of service of the Chairperson or of a member shall not be varied to his disadvantage after appointment.

[4][(*6A*) The part-time members shall receive such allowances as may be prescribed.]

(7) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (*2*) [5]***, a member may—

(a) relinquish his office by giving in writing to the Central Government notice of not less than three months; or

(b) be removed from his office in accordance with the provisions of section 7.

[6][(*8*) The Chairperson and the whole-time members shall not, for a period of two years from the date on which they cease to hold office as such, except with the previous approval of the Central Government, accept—

(a) any employment either under the Central Government or under any State Government; or

(b) any appointment in any company in the business of telecommunication services.]

(*9*) A vacancy caused to the office of the Chairperson or any other member shall be filled up within a period of three months from the date on which such vacancy occurs.

[7]* * * * *

6. Powers of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.—(*1*) The Chairperson shall have powers of general superintendence and directions in the conduct of the affairs of the Authority and he shall, in addition to presiding over the meetings of the Authority, exercise and discharge such powers and functions of the Authority and shall discharge such other powers and functions as may be prescribed.

(*2*) The Central Government may appoint one of the members to be a Vice-Chairperson of the Authority who shall exercise and discharge such powers and functions of the Chairperson as may be prescribed or as may be delegated to him by the Authority.

7. Removal and suspension of member from office in certain circumstances.—(*1*) The Central Government may remove from office any member, who,—

(a) has been adjudged an insolvent; or

(b) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude; or

(c) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a member; or

(d) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as a member; or

(e) has so abused his position as to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest.

1. Subs. by Act 2 of 2000, s. 6, for "selection as member" (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
2. Subs. by s. 6, *ibid.,* for "joining as member" (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
3. Subs. by s. 6, *ibid*., for "other members" (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
4. Ins. by s. 6, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
5. The words, brackets and figure "or sub-section (*3*)" omitted by s. 6, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
6. Subs. by Act 20 of 2014, s. 2, for sub-section (*8*) (w.e.f. 28-5-2014).
7. The *Explanation* omitted by s. 2, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 28-5-2014).

[1][(*2*) No such member shall be removed from his office under clause (*d*) or clause (*e*) of sub-section (1) unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in the matter.]

8. Meetings.—(*1*) The Authority shall meet at such times and places, and shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings (including quorum at such meetings) as may be provided by regulations.

(2) The Chairperson or, if for any reason, he is unable to attend a meeting of the Authority, Vice-Chairperson and in his absence, any other member chosen by the members present from amongst themselves at the meeting shall presided at the meeting.

(3) All questions which come up before any meeting of the Authority shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present and voting, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson or in his absence, the person presiding, shall have a second or casting vote.

(4) The Authority may make regulations for the transaction of business at its meetings.

9. Vacancies, etc., not to invalidate proceedings of Authority.—No act or proceeding of the Authority shall be invalid merely by reason of—

(a) any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Authority; or

(b) any defect in the appointment of a person acting as a member of the Authority; or

(c) any irregularity in the procedure of the Authority not affecting the merits of the case.

10. Officers and other employees of Authority.—(*1*) The Authority may appoint officers and such other employees as it considers necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions under this Act.

(2) The salary and allowances payable to and the other conditions of service of the officers and other employees of the Authority appointed under sub-section (*1*) shall be such as may be [2][prescribed]:

[3][Provided that any regulation, in respect of the salary and allowances payable to and other conditions of service of the officers and other employees of the Authority, made before the commencement of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000 (2 of 2000),shall cease to have effect immediately on the notification of rules made under clause (*ca*) of sub-section (*2*) of section 35.]

CHAPTER III

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY

11. Functions of Authority.—[4][(*1*) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Telegraph Act,1885 (13 of 1885),the functions of the Authority shall be to—

(a) make recommendations, either *suo motu* or on a request from the licensor, on the following matters, namely:—

(i) need and timing for introduction of new service provider;

(ii) terms and conditions of licence to a service provider;

(iii) revocation of license for non-compliance of terms and conditions of licence;

(iv) measures to facilitate competition and promote efficiency in the operation of telecommunication services so as to facilitate growth in such services;

(v) technological improvements in the services provided by the service providers;

(vi) type of equipment to be used by the service providers after inspection of equipment used in the network;

(vii) measures for the development of telecommunication technology and any other matter relatable to telecommunication industry in general;

(viii) efficient management of available spectrum;

(b) discharge the following functions, namely:—

(i) ensure compliance of terms and conditions of licence;

1. Subs. by Act 2 of 2000, s. 7, for sub-sections (*2*) and (*3*) (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
2. Subs. by s. 8, *ibid*., for "determined by regulations" (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
3. Ins. by s. 8, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
4. Subs. by s. 9, *ibid.,* for sub-section (*1*) (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).

(ii) notwithstanding anything contained in the terms and conditions of the licence granted before the commencement of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000 (2 of 2000), fix the terms and conditions of inter-connectivity between the service providers;

(iii) ensure technical compatibility and effective inter-connection between different service providers;

(iv) regulate arrangement amongst service providers of sharing their revenue derived from providing telecommunication services;

(v) lay-down the standards of quality of service to be provided by the service providers and ensure the quality of service and conduct the periodical survey of such service provided by the service providers so as to protect interest of the consumers of telecommunication service;

(vi) lay-down and ensure the time period for providing local and long distance circuits of telecommunication between different service providers;

(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;

(ix) ensure effective compliance of universal service obligations;

(c) levy fees and other charges at such rates and in respect of such services as may be determined by regulations;

(d) perform such other functions including such administrative and financial functions as may be entrusted to it by the Central Government or as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act:

Provided that the recommendations of the Authority specified in clause (*a*) of this sub-section shall not be binding upon the Central Government:

Provided further that the Central Government shall seek the recommendations of the Authority in respect of matters specified in sub-clauses (*i*) and (*ii*) of clause (*a*) of this sub-section in respect of new licence to be issued to a service provider and the Authority shall forward its recommendations within a period of sixty days from the date on which that Government sought the recommendations:

Provided also that the Authority may request the Central Government to furnish such information or documents as may be necessary for the purpose of making recommendations under sub-clauses (*i*) and (*ii*) of clause (*a*) of this sub-section and that Government shall supply such information within a period of seven days from receipt of such request:

Provided also that the Central Government may issue a licence to a service provider if no recommendations are received from the Authority within the period specified in the second proviso or within such period as may be mutually agreed upon between the Central Government and the Authority:

Provided also that if the Central Government, having considered that recommendation of the Authority, comes to a *prima facie* conclusion that such recommendation cannot be accepted or needs modifications, it shall refer the recommendation back to the Authority for its reconsideration, and the Authority may, within fifteen days from the date of receipt of such reference, forward to the Central Government its recommendation after considering the reference made by that Government. After receipt of further recommendation if any, the Central Government shall take a final decision.]

(*2*) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885), the Authority may, from time to time, by order, notify in the Official Gazette the rates at which the telecommunication services within India and outside India shall be provided under this Act including the rates at which messages shall be transmitted to any country outside India:

Provided that the Authority may notify different rates for different persons or class of persons for similar telecommunication services and where different rates are fixed as aforesaid the Authority shall record the reasons therefor.

(3) While discharging its functions [1][under sub-section (*1*) or sub-section (*2*)], the Authority shall not act against the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality.

(4) The Authority shall ensure transparency while exercising its powers and discharging its functions.

12. Powers of Authority to call for information, conduct investigations, etc.—(*1*) Where the Authority considers it expedient so to do, it may, by order in writing,—

(a) call upon any service provider at any time to furnish in writing such information or explanation relating to its affairs as the Authority may require; or

(b) appoint one or more persons to make an inquiry in relation to the affairs of any service provider; and

(c) direct any of its officers or employees to inspect the books of account or other documents of any service provider.

(2) Where any inquiry in relation to the affairs of a service provider has been undertaken under sub-section (*1*),—

(a) every officer of the Government Department, if such service provider is a department of the Government;

(b) every director, manager, secretary or other officer, if such service provider is a company; or

(c) every partner, manager, secretary or other officer, if such service provider is a firm; or

(d) every other person or body of persons who has had dealings in the course of business with any of the persons mentioned in clauses (*b*) and (*c*),

shall be bound to produce before the Authority making the inquiry, all such books of account or other documents in his custody or power relating to, or having a bearing on the subject-matter of such inquiry and also to furnish to the Authority with any such statement or information relating thereto, as the case may be, required of him, within such time as may be specified.

(3) Every service provider shall maintain such books of account or other documents as may be prescribed.

(4) The Authority shall have the power to issue such directions to service providers as it may consider necessary for proper functioning by service providers.

13. Power of Authority to issue directions.—The Authority may, for the discharge of its functions under sub-section (*1*) of section 11, issue such directions from time to time to the service providers, as it may consider necessary:

[2][Provided that no direction under sub-section (*4*) of section 12 or under this section shall be issued except on the matters specified in clause (*b*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 11.]

[3][CHAPTER IV

APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

14. Establishment of Appellate Tribunal.—The Central Government shall, by notification, establish an Appellate Tribunal to be known as the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal to—

(a) adjudicate any dispute—

(i) between a licensor and a licensee;

(ii) between two or more service providers;

1. Subs. by Act 2 of 2000, s. 9, for "under sub-section (*1*)" (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
2. Ins. by s. 10, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
3. Subs. by s. 11, *ibid.,* for Chapter IV (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).

(iii) between a service provider and a group of consumers:

Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply in respect of matters relating to—

(A) the monopolistic trade practice, restrictive trade practice and unfair trade practice which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission established under sub-section (*1*) of section 5 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969(54 of 1969);

(B) the complaint of an individual consumer maintainable before a Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum or a Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or the National Consumer Redressal Commission established under section 9 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986(68 of 1986);

(C) the dispute between telegraph authority and any other person referred to in sub-section (1) of section 7B of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885);

(b) hear and dispose of appeal against any direction, decision or order of the Authority under this Act.

[1][(*c*) exercise jurisdiction, powers and authority conferred on—

(i) the Appellate Tribunal under the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000); and

(ii) the Appellate Tribunal under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 (27 of 2008).]

14A. Application for settlement of disputes and appeals to Appellate Tribunal.—(*1*) The Central Government or a State Government or a local authority or any person may make an application to the Appellate Tribunal for adjudication of any dispute referred to in clause (*a*) of section 14.

(2) The Central Government or a State Government or a local authority or any person aggrieved by any direction, decision or order made by the Authority may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal.

(3) Every appeal under sub-section (*2*) shall be preferred within a period of thirty days from the date on which a copy of the direction or order or decision made by the Authority is received by the Central Government or the State Government or the local authority or the aggrieved person and it shall be in such form, verified in such manner and be accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed:

Provided that the Appellate Tribunal may entertain any appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not filing it within that period.

(4) On receipt of an application under sub-section (*1*) or an appeal under sub-section (*2*), the Appellate Tribunal may, after giving the parties to the dispute or the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such orders thereon as it thinks fit.

(5) The Appellate Tribunal shall send a copy of every order made by it to the parties to the dispute or the appeal and to the Authority, as the case may be.

(6) The application made under sub-section (*1*) or the appeal preferred under sub-section (*2*) shall be dealt with by it as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made by it to dispose of the application or appeal finally within ninety days from the date of receipt of application or appeal, as the case may be:

Provided that where any such application or appeal could not be disposed of within the said period of ninety days, the Appellate Tribunal shall record its reasons in writing for not disposing of the application or appeal within that period.

(7) The Appellate Tribunal may, for the purpose of examining the legality or propriety or correctness of any dispute made in any application under sub-section (*1*) or of any direction or order or decision of the Authority referred to in the appeal preferred under sub-section (*2*), on its own motion or otherwise, call for the records relevant to disposing of such application or appeal and make such orders as it thinks fit.

1. Ins. by Act 7 of 2017, s. 168 (w.e.f. 26-5-2017).

14B. Composition of Appellate Tribunal.—(*1*) The Appellate Tribunal shall consist of a Chairperson and not more than two Members to be appointed, by notification, by the Central Government.

(2) The selection of Chairperson and Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be made by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Act,—

(a) the jurisdiction of the Appellate Tribunal may be exercised by the Benches thereof;

(b) a Bench may be constituted by the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal with one or two Members of such Tribunal as the Chairperson may deem fit;

(c) the Benches of the Appellate Tribunal shall ordinarily sit at New Delhi and at such other places as the Central Government may, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, notify;

(d) the Central Government shall notify the areas in relation to which each Bench of the Appellate Tribunal may exercise its jurisdiction.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (*2*), the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal may transfer a Member of such Tribunal from one Bench to another Bench.

(5) If at any stage of the hearing of any case or matter it appears to the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal that the case or matter is of such a nature that it ought to be heard by a Bench consisting of two Members, the case or matter may be transferred by the Chairperson to such Bench as the Chairperson may deem fit.

14C. Qualifications for appointment of Chairperson and Members.—A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal unless he—

(a) in the case of Chairperson, is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court;

(b) in the case of a Member, has held the post of Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the Central Government or the State Government for a period of not less than two years or a person who is well versed in the field of technology, telecommunication, industry, commerce or administration.

14D. Term of office.—The Chairperson and every other Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall hold office as such for a term not exceeding three years from the date on which he enters upon his office:

Provided that no Chairperson or other Member shall hold office as such after he has attained,—

(a) in the case of Chairperson, the age of seventy years;

(b) in the case of any other Member, the age of sixty-five years.

14E. Terms and conditions of service.—The salary and allowances payable to and the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and other Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed:

Provided that neither the salary and allowances nor the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall be varied to his disadvantage after appointment.

14F. Vacancies.—If, for reason other than temporary absence, any vacancy occurs in the office of the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal, the Central Government shall appoint another person in accordance with the provisions of this Act to fill the vacancy and the proceedings may be continued before the Appellate Tribunal from the stage at which the vacancy is filled.

14G. Removal and resignation.—(*1*) The Central Government may remove from office, the Chairperson or any Member of the Appellate Tribunal, who—

(a) has been adjudged an insolvent; or

(b) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude; or

(c) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as the Chairperson or a Member; or

(d) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as the Chairperson or a Member; or

(e) has so abused his position as to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (*1*), the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall not be removed from his office on the ground specified in clause (*d*) or clause (*e*) of that sub-section unless the Supreme Court on a reference being made to it in this behalf by the Central Government, has, on an enquiry, held by it in accordance with such procedure as it may specify in this behalf, reported that the Chairperson or a Member ought on such ground or grounds to be removed.

(3) The Central Government may suspend from office, the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal in respect of whom a reference has been made to the Supreme Court under sub-section (*2*), until the Central Government has passed an order on receipt of the report of the Supreme Court on such reference.

[1][**14GA. Qualifications, terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and Member**.—Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the qualifications, appointment, term of office, salaries and allowances, resignation, removal and the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and other Members of the Appellate Tribunal appointed after the commencement of [2][the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter II of the said Act]:

Provided that the Chairperson and Member appointed before the commencement of Part XIV of Chapter VI of the Finance Act, 2017, shall continue to be governed by the provisions of this Act and the rules made there under as if the provisions of section 184 of the Finance Act, 2017 had not come into force.]

14H. Staff of Appellate Tribunal.—(*1*) The Central Government shall provide the Appellate Tribunal with such officers and employees as it may deem fit.

(2) The officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall discharge their functions under the general superintendence of its Chairperson.

(3) The salaries and allowances and other conditions of service of the officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed.

14-I. Distribution of business amongst Benches.—Where Benches are constituted, the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal may, from time to time, by notification, make provisions as to the distribution of the business of the Appellate Tribunal amongst the Benches and also provide for the matters which may be dealt with by each Bench.

14J. Power of Chairperson to transfer cases.—On the application of any of the parties and after notice to the parties, and after hearing such of them as he may desire to be heard, or on his own motion without such notice, the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal may transfer any case pending before one Bench, for disposal, to any other Bench.

14K. Decision to be by majority.—If the Members of a Bench consisting of two Members differ in opinion on any point, they shall state the point or points on which they differ, and make a reference to the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal who shall hear the point or points himself and such point or points shall be decided according to the opinion of the majority who have heard the case, including those who first heard it.

14L. Members, etc., to be public servants.—The Chairperson, Members and other officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860).

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1. Ins. by Act 7 of 2017, s. 168 (w.e.f. 26-5-2017).
2. Subs. by Act 33 of 2021, s. 20, for "Part XIV of Chapter VI of the Finance Act, 2017, shall be governed by the provisions of section 184 of that Act" (w.e.f. 4-4-2021).

14M. Transfer of pending cases.—All applications, pending for adjudication of disputes before the Authority immediately before the date of establishment of the Appellate Tribunal under this Act, shall stand transferred on that date to such Tribunal:

Provided that all disputes being adjudicated under the provisions of Chapter IV as it stood immediately before the commencement of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000 (2 of 2000), shall continue to be adjudicated by the Authority in accordance with the provisions contained in that Chapter, till the establishment of the Appellate Tribunal under this Act:

Provided further that all cases referred to in the first proviso shall be transferred by the Authority to the Appellate Tribunal immediately on its establishment under section 14.

14N. Transfer of appeals.—(*1*) All appeals pending before the High Court immediately before the commencement of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000 (2 of 2000), shall stand transferred to the Appellate Tribunal on its establishment under section 14.

(2) Where any appeal stands transferred from the High Court to the Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (*1*),—

(a) the High Court shall, as soon as may be after such transfer, forward the records of such appeal to the Appellate Tribunal; and

(b) the Appellate Tribunal may, on receipt of such records, proceed to deal with such appeal, so far as may be from the stage which was reached before such transfer or from any earlier stage or *de novo* as the Appellate Tribunal may deem fit.

15. Civil court not to have jurisdiction.—No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding in respect of any matter which the Appellate Tribunal is empowered by or under this Act to determine and no injunction shall be granted by any court or other authority in respect of any action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred by or under this Act.

16. Procedure and powers of Appellate Tribunal.—(*1*) The Appellate Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and, subject to the other provisions of this Act, the Appellate Tribunal shall have powers to regulate its own procedure.

(2) The Appellate Tribunal shall have, for the purposes of discharging its functions under this Act, the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), while trying a suit, in respect of the following matters, namely:—

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of documents;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(d) subject to the provisions of sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872), requisitioning any public record or document or a copy of such record or document, from any office;

(e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;

(f) reviewing its decisions;

(g) dismissing an application for default or deciding it, *ex parte*;

(h) setting aside any order of dismissal of any application for default or any order passed by it, *ex parte*; and

(i) any other matter which may be prescribed.

(3) Every proceeding before the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of sections 193 and 228, and for the purposes of section 196, of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860) and the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be a civil court for the purposes of section 195 and Chapter XXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974).

17. Right to legal representation.—The applicant or appellant may either appear in person or authorise one or more chartered accountants or company secretaries or cost accountants or legal practitioners or any of its officers to present his or its case before the Appellate Tribunal.

Explanation.—for the purposes of this section,—

(a) "chartered accountant" means a chartered accountant as defined in clause (*b*) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (38 of 1949) and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (*1*) of section 6 of that Act;

(b) "company secretary" means a company secretary as defined in clause (*c*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 2 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (56 of 1980) and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (*1*) of section 6 of that Act;

(c) "cost accountant" means a cost accountant as defined in clause (*b*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 2 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 (23 of 1959) and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (*1*) of section 6 of that Act;

(d) "legal practitioner" means an advocate, *vakil* or an attorney of any High Court, and includes a pleader in practice.

18. Appeal to Supreme Court.—(*1*) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908),or in any other law, an appeal shall lie against any order, not being an interlocutory order, of the Appellate Tribunal to the Supreme Court on one or more of the grounds specified in section 100 of that Code.

(2) No appeal shall lie against any decision or order made by the Appellate Tribunal with the consent of the parties.

(3) Every appeal under this section shall be preferred within a period of ninety days from the date of the decision or order appealed against:

Provided that the Supreme Court may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of ninety days, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal in time.

19. Orders passed by Appellate Tribunal to be executable as a decree.—(*1*) An order passed by the Appellate Tribunal under this Act shall be executable by the Appellate Tribunal as a decree of civil court, and for this purpose, the Appellate Tribunal shall have all the powers of a civil court.

(*2*) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section(*1*), the Appellate Tribunal may transmit any order made by it to a civil court having local jurisdiction and such civil court shall execute the order as if it were a decree made by that court.

20. Penalty for wilful failure to comply with orders of Appellate Tribunal.—If any person wilfully fails to comply with the order of the Appellate Tribunal, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees and in case of a second or subsequent offence with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees and in the case of continuing contravention with additional fine which may extend to two lakh rupees for every day during which such default continues.]

CHAPTER V

FINANCE, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

21. Grants by Central Government.—The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, make to the Authority grants of such sums of money as are required to pay salaries and allowances payable to the Chairperson and the members and the administrative expenses including the salaries, allowances and pension payable to or in respect of officers and other employees of the Authority.

22. Fund.—(*1*) There shall be constituted a Fund to be called the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India General Fund and there shall be credited thereto—

(a) all grants, fees and charges received by the Authority under this Act; and

(b) all sums received by the Authority from such other sources as may be decided upon by the Central Government.

(*2*) The Fund shall be applied for meeting—

(a) the salaries and allowances payable to the Chairperson and members and the administrative expenses including the salaries, allowances and pension payable to or in respect of officers and other employees of the Authority; and

(b) the expenses on objects and for purposes authorised by this Act.

23. Accounts and audit.—(*1*) The Authority shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(2) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such auditor shall be payable by the Authority to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

[1][*Explanation.*—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the decisions of the Authority taken in the discharge of its functions under clause (*b*) of sub-section (*1*) and sub-section (*2*) of section 11 and section 13, being matters appealable to the Appellate Tribunal, shall not be subject to audit under this section.]

(3) The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any other person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Authority shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General generally has, in connection with the audit of the Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Authority.

(4) The accounts of the Authority as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India or any other person appointed by him in this behalf together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the Central Government and that Government shall cause the same to be laid before each House of Parliament.

24. Furnishing of returns, etc., to Central Government.—(*1*) The Authority shall furnish to the Central Government at such time and in such form and manner as may be prescribed or as the Central Government may direct, such returns and statements and such particulars in regard to any proposed or existing programme for the promotion and development of the telecommunication services, as the Central Government may from time to time, require.

(2) The Authority shall prepare once every year in such form and at such time as may be prescribed, an annual report giving a summary of its activities during the previous year and copies of the report shall be forwarded to the Central Government.

(3) A copy of the report received under sub-section (*2*) shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is received, before each House of Parliament.

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS

25. Power of Central Government to issue directions.—(*1*) The Central Government may, from to time to time, issue to the Authority such directions as it may think necessary in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality.

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions, the Authority shall, in exercise of its powers or the performance of its functions, be bound by such directions on questions of policy as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time:

Provided that the Authority shall, as far as practicable, be given an opportunity to express its views before any direction is given under this sub-section.

(3) The decision of the Central Government whether a question is one of policy or not shall be final.

1. Ins. by Act 2 of 2000, s. 12 (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).

26. Members, officers and employees of Authority to be public servants.—All members, officers and other employees of the Authority shall be deemed, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860).

27. Bar of jurisdiction.—No civil court shall have jurisdiction in respect of any matter which the Authority is empowered by or under this Act to determine.

28. Protection of action taken in good faith.—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Central Government or the Authority or any officer of Central Government or any member, officer or other employees of the Authority for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rules or regulations made there under.

29. Penalty for contravention of directions of Authority.—If a person violates directions of the Authority, such person shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees and in case of second or subsequent offence with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees and in the case of continuing contravention with additional fine which may extend to two lakh rupees for every day during which the default continues.

30. Offences by companies.—(*1*) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment provided in this Act if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he has exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(*2*) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (*1*), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to, any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section,—

(a) "company" means anybody corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and

(b) "director", in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

31. Offences by Government Departments.—(*1*) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by any Department of Government, the Head of the Department shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly unless he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(*2*) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (*1*), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a Department of Government and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any officer, other than the Head of the Department, such officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

32. Exemption from tax on wealth and income.—Notwithstanding anything contained in the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 (27 of 1957), the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), or any other enactment for the time being in force relating to tax on wealth, income, profits or gains, the Authority shall not be liable to pay wealth-tax, income-tax or any other tax in respect of their wealth, income, profits or gains derived.

33. Delegation.—The Authority may, by general or special order in writing, delegate to any member, officer of the Authority or any other person subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the order, such of its powers and functions under this Act (except the power to settle dispute under Chapter IV and to make regulation under section 36) as it may deem necessary.

34. Cognizance of offences.—(*1*) No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder, save on a complaint made by the Authority.

(*2*) No court inferior to that of a Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or a Chief Judicial Magistrate of first class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

35. Power to make rules.—(*1*) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the salary and allowances payable to and the other conditions of service of the Chairperson and members under sub-section (*5*) of section 5;

[1][(*aa*) the allowances payable to the part-time members under sub-section (*6A*) of section 5;]

(b) the powers and functions of the Chairperson under sub-section (*1*) of section 6;

(c) the procedure for conducting an inquiry made under sub-section (*2*) of section 7;

[1][(*ca*) the salary and allowances and other conditions of service of officers and other employees of the Authority under sub-section (*2*) of section 10;]

(d) the category of books of account or other documents which are required to be maintained under sub-section (*3*) of section 12;

[1][(*da*) the form, the manner of its verification and the fee under sub-section (*3*) of section 14A;

(*db*) the salary and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and other Members of the Appellate Tribunal under section 14E;

(*dc*) the salary and allowances and other conditions of service of the officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (*3*) of section 14H;

(*dd*) any other power of a civil court required to be prescribed under clause (*i*) of sub-section (*2*) of section 16;]

(e) the period within which an application is to be made under sub-section (*1*) of section 15;

(f) the manner in which the accounts of the Authority shall be maintained under sub-section (*1*) of section 23;

(g) the time within which and the form and manner in which returns and report are to be made to the Central Government under sub-sections (*1*) and (*2*) of section 24;

(h) any other matter which is to be, or may be, prescribed, or in respect of which provision is to be made, by rules.

36. Power to make regulations.—(*1*) The Authority may, by notification, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(*2*) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the times and places of meetings of the Authority and the procedure to be followed at such meetings under sub-section (*1*) of section 8, including quorum necessary for the transaction of business;

(b) the transaction of business at the meetings of the Authority under sub-section (*4*) of section 8;

[2]* * * * *

(d) matters in respect of which register is to be maintained by the Authority [3][under sub-clause (*vii*) of clause (*b*)] of sub-section (*1*) of section 11;

(e) levy of fee and lay down such other requirements on fulfilment of which a copy of register may be obtained [4][under sub-clause (*viii*) of clause (*b*)] of sub-section (*1*) of section 11;

1. Ins. by Act 2 of 2000, s. 13 (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
2. Clause (*c*) omitted by s. 14, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
3. Subs. by s. 14, *ibid.,* for "under clause (*l*)" (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).
4. Subs. by s. 14, *ibid.,* for "under clause (*m*)" (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).

(f) levy of fees and other charges [1][under clause (*c*)] of sub-section (*1*) of section 11;

37. Rules and regulations to be laid before Parliament.—Every rule and every regulation made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or regulation or both Houses agree that the rule or regulation should not be made, the rule or regulation shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or regulation.

38. Application of certain laws.—The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885) and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 (17 of 1933) and, in particular, nothing in this Act shall affect any jurisdiction, powers and functions required to be exercised or performed by the Telegraph Authority in relation to any area falling within the jurisdiction of such Authority.

39. Power to remove difficulties.—(*1*) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(*2*) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

40. Repeal and saving.—(*1*) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Ordinance 1997 (Ord. 11 of 1997) is hereby repealed.

(*2*) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

1. Subs. by Act 2 of 2000, s. 14, for "under clause (*p*)" (w.e.f. 24-1-2000).

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 – Executive Summary, Bare Act PDF

Introduction – Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 Executive Summary PDF

The telecom industry in India was once a closed and slow-moving space. Until the early 1990s, communication services were largely run by the Government through the Department of Telecommunications. Waiting periods were long, competition was absent, and consumers had little choice. As India opened its economy, the arrival of private players demanded a new legal order — one that could balance commercial freedom with public responsibility.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Bare Act PDF was enacted to meet that need. It created a specialised and independent regulator, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), entrusted with maintaining fairness and discipline in the sector. The Act ensured that while private investment expanded access and technology, regulation would preserve integrity and protect the interests of consumers.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF explains how this statute reshaped the relationship between government, operators, and the public. For the first time, there was a clear separation between policymaking, service operation, and regulation — an arrangement that gave credibility to India's liberalisation efforts.

The TRAI Act 1997 PDF Corrida Legal interpretation highlights a simple but lasting idea: competition must be guided by fairness. The law's purpose was not only to control prices or licensing but to make telecom a reliable public service governed by transparency and accountability.

Over time, this framework became the foundation of modern Telecom Law and Regulation in India. Every development since — from tariff reforms to digital connectivity — traces its roots back to the principles laid down in this Act. It turned communication into a right accessible to all, not a privilege of a few.

The structure of licensing, defined under Telecom Licensing and Compliance under TRAI Act 1997, continues to uphold that balance. It allows innovation and private growth while keeping consumer welfare at the centre.

The establishment of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) under TRAI Act later added a fair and specialised dispute mechanism, ensuring that conflicts are resolved with expertise rather than bureaucracy. Together, these reforms built a legal ecosystem where telecom could grow responsibly — an industry regulated by law, not power.

Key Takeaways

- The TRAI Act, 1997 emerged from the telecom reforms of the 1990s.
- It separated policy, operation, and regulation to ensure transparency.
- The law focuses on competition that benefits consumers.
- Licensing and compliance remain guided by fairness and accountability.
- The creation of TDSAT strengthened dispute resolution in the sector.
- The Act continues to anchor India's telecom governance even in the digital age.

Background and Legislative Intent – Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 Executive Summary PDF

The story of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 begins much before the law itself came into force. Through the 1980s and early 1990s, India's telecommunication system was fully controlled by the Government. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) functioned as both operator and policymaker. Waiting years for a new connection was common, and tariffs remained high because competition simply did not exist.

The early phase of economic liberalisation in the 1990s changed this reality. The private sector entered the telecom space through the National Telecom Policy, 1994, and for the first time, telephone services were seen as a potential growth engine rather than a bureaucratic service. Yet, with this new freedom came confusion — there were no uniform rules to regulate the behaviour of multiple players in a market that was once a monopoly.

It was in this environment that Parliament enacted the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Bare Act PDF. The intent was not just to regulate a growing industry but to ensure that the benefits of competition reached consumers fairly. The law separated the Government's role as operator from that of a neutral regulator, laying the groundwork for a transparent and credible telecom market.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF explains that TRAI was conceived as an independent institution capable of balancing two parallel objectives — promoting investment and protecting public interest. It had to keep pace with technology, mediate disputes, and guide the industry towards long-term sustainability.

The Legislative Purpose

The legislative intent behind the TRAI Act 1997 PDF Corrida Legal interpretation can be summarised through three broad goals:

1. **Establish independence in regulation** — to ensure that market oversight was free from political and commercial influence.
2. **Protect the consumer** — to make sure that pricing, quality of service, and transparency were consistent across operators.
3. **Enable fair competition** — to prevent monopoly or collusion and encourage equal access for new entrants.

The law drew inspiration from global models but was tailored for Indian realities. It recognised that telecom was no longer a state-controlled facility; it was a public utility that needed a neutral referee to maintain trust and efficiency.

The Shift from Monopoly to a Managed Market

This reform was not just economic — it was institutional. The Telecom Law and Regulation in India changed from command-and-control to oversight and facilitation. TRAI's establishment represented a shift towards professional governance where the regulator, rather than the Government, would decide tariffs, approve interconnection agreements, and monitor service quality.

The introduction of Telecom Licensing and Compliance under TRAI Act 1997 made licensing procedures more transparent. Operators were now accountable not only to the Government but also to a regulator that ensured their compliance with fair practices.

Balancing Development and Discipline

The legislative philosophy behind the Act was to create a self-correcting system — one that encouraged growth but kept it disciplined. TRAI was given both consultative and enforcement powers, allowing it to respond quickly to market irregularities.

When disputes began to emerge between private operators and the Government, a new institutional framework was needed for fair adjudication. This led to the later creation of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) under TRAI Act, which now serves as a neutral forum for resolving complex issues between service providers, consumers, and the regulator.

Objectives and Scope of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 Executive Summary PDF

The objectives of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 were shaped by the challenges of a transforming economy. India's telecom market was moving from monopoly to competition, and this transition required a steady hand. The Act's purpose was clear — to create an independent authority that would guide the telecom sector towards fair growth while protecting public interest.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Bare Act PDF lays down these objectives in a structured manner. It was designed to ensure that the telecom industry developed in an orderly and transparent way, where service quality, consumer protection, and financial discipline worked together to build trust.

The law recognised that communication was no longer a luxury but an essential part of economic progress. It introduced a governance model that could respond to rapid changes in technology and market dynamics. Through the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF, one can see how the Act continues to shape both policy and practice in India's telecom sector.

Key Objectives of the TRAI Act

1. **Promoting fair competition** – The Act encourages multiple players in the market while preventing any single operator from dominating.
2. **Protecting consumer interests** – It mandates reasonable tariffs, quality of service standards, and grievance redressal mechanisms.
3. **Ensuring transparency** – All operators are required to follow uniform procedures in tariff filing, licensing, and reporting.
4. **Encouraging technological advancement** – The Act allows TRAI to recommend policy reforms that support innovation and digital expansion.
5. **Maintaining financial stability** – Service providers must comply with solvency, investment, and reporting norms to prevent market disruption.
6. **Supporting policy formulation** – TRAI assists the Government in framing national telecom policies and reviewing their implementation.

These objectives together form the foundation of modern telecom governance. They represent a balance between regulation and reform — allowing the market to grow while keeping consumer welfare at the heart of every decision.

Scope and Reach of the Act

The TRAI Act 1997 PDF Corrida Legal interpretation highlights its broad scope. The Act applies to all licensed telecom operators, including mobile, broadband, satellite, and internet service providers. Its reach extends beyond pricing and licensing to include interconnection agreements, quality of service, and dispute resolution.

The scope of the Act also includes oversight of broadcasting and cable services, brought within TRAI's jurisdiction through later amendments. By linking telecom and broadcasting under one regulatory umbrella, India created a unified framework for communication services — a step that would later support the rise of digital convergence.

Core Functions within Telecom Law and Regulation in India

Within the larger system of Telecom Law and Regulation in India, the TRAI Act serves three core functions:

- **Regulatory:** Overseeing the operational conduct of service providers, issuing directions, and ensuring compliance.
- **Recommendatory:** Advising the Government on licensing, mergers, and foreign investment in telecom.
- **Adjudicatory (before TDSAT):** Facilitating dispute resolution and maintaining market discipline.

Each of these functions supports the other, ensuring that India's telecom market operates with clarity, stability, and fairness.

Licensing and Compliance Framework

The Telecom Licensing and Compliance under TRAI Act 1997 forms a vital part of this structure. TRAI reviews license terms, monitors compliance, and ensures that operators follow the principles of non-discrimination and transparency. The Authority also plays an advisory role in defining license conditions, helping the Government maintain uniform standards across the industry.

Through this process, the Act ensures that telecom services remain consistent, reliable, and affordable, even as the market evolves.

Role of TDSAT within the Framework

The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) under TRAI Act provides an additional safeguard within this ecosystem. It hears appeals and settles conflicts between service providers, consumers, and the regulator. The presence of a specialised tribunal allows disputes to be resolved with sectoral expertise, reducing delays and ensuring fairness.

Structure and Composition of TRAI under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 Executive Summary PDF

When the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established under the 1997 Act, it was not merely another government institution — it was meant to be an independent authority with a professional structure, insulated from political or commercial pressure. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Bare Act PDF outlines this structure carefully, ensuring that the regulator could perform its duties objectively while maintaining accountability to Parliament and the public.

The success of any regulatory framework depends on its institutional design. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF explains that TRAI was created with a balance of expertise and independence. It was to function neither as a ministry nor as a private board, but as a neutral referee that understood both law and technology.

Composition of the Authority

The TRAI Act 1997 PDF Corrida Legal interpretation notes that the Authority is composed of a Chairperson and not more than two full-time and two part-time Members. All are appointed by the Central Government, based on their knowledge of telecom, finance, management, law, or consumer affairs.

This mix of expertise is deliberate. The Chairperson brings leadership and direction, while the Members contribute domain-specific insight. Together, they make decisions that influence the pricing, quality, and accessibility of communication across the country.

Appointment, Tenure, and Independence

The Act prescribes transparent procedures for appointments to avoid conflicts of interest. The Chairperson and Members are appointed for a fixed term, after which they are not eligible for reappointment. This prevents dependency on the Government and reinforces independence in decision-making.

Their salaries and conditions of service are also fixed under statute. This ensures that TRAI's functioning remains free from external influence and that its decisions are guided by law and public interest, not political convenience.

Secretariat and Operational Structure

Supporting the Authority is the TRAI Secretariat — a dedicated administrative unit responsible for research, policy drafting, and stakeholder coordination. It includes professionals from technical, legal, and economic backgrounds who assist in the preparation of consultation papers, regulatory guidelines, and policy recommendations.

This Secretariat structure allows TRAI to function continuously and respond to changes in the market with informed expertise. It is one of the reasons why the Telecom Law and Regulation in India remains dynamic and adaptable despite rapid technological growth.

Decision-Making Process

All important decisions are made collectively by the Chairperson and Members, ensuring that no single viewpoint dominates. TRAI's working method relies heavily on consultation — a process through which it invites public comments and industry feedback before issuing regulations.

This consultative approach has become a hallmark of transparency under Indian telecom regulation. It encourages participation from all stakeholders, including consumers, operators, and policy experts, before a final order is passed.

Relationship with the Government

While TRAI is independent, it functions in coordination with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Ministry of Communications. The Act allows the Government to issue directions in matters of public interest, but these must be consistent with the objectives of the Act.

This balance ensures that the Telecom Licensing and Compliance under TRAI Act 1997 continues to function under clear boundaries — the regulator monitors the industry, while the Government frames the broader policy.

Role of TDSAT in Institutional Framework

To complement TRAI's regulatory role, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) under TRAI Act was later established as a separate adjudicatory body. While TRAI regulates and monitors, TDSAT resolves disputes between the regulator, service providers, and consumers. This separation between regulation and adjudication ensures fairness and clarity in the enforcement of telecom laws.

Powers and Functions of TRAI under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 Executive Summary PDF

When the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India was set up, it was not meant to be a symbolic body. It was created with real powers and clear responsibilities. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Bare Act PDF defines TRAI as the regulator of a fast-changing industry — one that needed constant oversight, yet enough freedom to grow. The law gave TRAI authority to supervise, regulate, and guide the telecom sector while protecting consumers and ensuring fair competition.

At its core, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF shows that TRAI was designed to function independently. It was expected to strike a balance between commercial ambition and public interest. As the industry evolved from landlines to mobile phones and now into digital communication, TRAI's powers expanded in both scope and influence.

Regulatory Powers

The TRAI Act 1997 PDF Corrida Legal interpretation explains that regulation is the backbone of TRAI's work. The authority controls tariffs, quality of service, and interconnection between operators. It ensures that service providers compete fairly and that no single company uses its size to control the market.

TRAI also supervises how service providers handle consumer data, billing, and grievance redressal. By framing binding directions, it makes sure that operators act within the law. This keeps the market stable and transparent while giving consumers confidence that their rights are protected.

Recommendatory Powers

In addition to its regulatory functions, TRAI advises the Government on major policy matters. This includes decisions on spectrum allocation, licensing terms, and entry of new players into the market. TRAI's recommendations are not political—they are based on analysis, consultation, and long-term vision.

The law allows TRAI to suggest reforms in:

- Licensing and merger policies for telecom operators.

- Pricing and competition guidelines.
- Promotion of digital and rural connectivity.
- Technology-driven reforms to support emerging services like broadband and VoIP.

This advisory role makes TRAI an active participant in shaping telecom policy, rather than a passive observer.

Supervisory and Monitoring Functions

Under Telecom Law and Regulation in India, TRAI has the power to monitor the functioning of every licensed operator. It can demand reports, inspect records, and verify compliance with its directions. The authority also conducts audits and performance checks to ensure that telecom companies follow established standards.

If a service provider violates these rules, TRAI can:

- Issue a warning or show-cause notice.
- Impose financial penalties.
- Recommend suspension of the license in severe cases.
- Direct the operator to take corrective action.

This system of supervision keeps the market disciplined and ensures that accountability is continuous, not occasional.

Consumer Protection and Service Quality

A large part of TRAI's mandate is focused on the consumer. It monitors call quality, network reliability, and billing accuracy. TRAI also publishes regular reports comparing the performance of different operators, creating healthy competition based on transparency.

Through public consultations, TRAI involves consumers in its decision-making process. Every regulation or tariff order is preceded by an open discussion where users, experts, and companies can share their opinions. This participatory method has made TRAI one of the most transparent regulators in India.

Promotion of Growth and Innovation

The Telecom Licensing and Compliance under TRAI Act 1997 highlights TRAI's role in encouraging investment and innovation. It supports new entrants, simplifies licensing norms, and ensures that smaller players are not sidelined by dominant operators.

TRAI's guidelines have been central to India's telecom revolution—creating conditions for affordable mobile services, digital inclusion, and rapid expansion of internet connectivity. Its regulatory consistency has given investors long-term confidence in India's telecom ecosystem.

Coordination and Dispute Prevention

While TRAI regulates the market, disputes between operators, or between operators and the Government, are handled by the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) under TRAI Act. The coordination between the two bodies helps maintain order. TRAI's proactive consultations often prevent disputes before they reach the tribunal.

This arrangement ensures that issues are resolved within the system rather than through lengthy litigation, making telecom regulation efficient and predictable.

Licensing and Compliance Framework under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 Executive Summary PDF

Licensing has always been at the centre of India's telecom regulation. Without a well-defined license system, it would have been impossible to maintain order in an industry driven by rapid expansion and technological change. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Bare Act PDF recognises this and gives TRAI the responsibility to advise, oversee, and monitor how telecom licenses are granted and maintained.

Before 1997, the licensing process was controlled entirely by the Department of Telecommunications. This meant that the same body made policies, operated services, and issued licenses — a structure that often led to conflicts of interest. The creation of TRAI changed that approach. By separating the policymaking and operational functions from regulation, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF ensured that the licensing process would become transparent and fair.

Role of TRAI in the Licensing System

TRAI's role in licensing is both advisory and supervisory. While the power to grant licenses remains with the Central Government, TRAI examines market conditions, evaluates proposals, and recommends terms and conditions to ensure fair competition.

The TRAI Act 1997 PDF Corrida Legal interpretation shows that the regulator's recommendations are based on three guiding ideas:

1. Equal opportunity for all eligible players.
2. Protection of consumer interest through service obligations.
3. Promotion of healthy competition to avoid dominance or cartelisation.

TRAI's oversight continues even after a license is granted. It monitors compliance with license terms, reviews operational performance, and advises on policy reforms when necessary.

Types of Telecom Licenses

Under Telecom Law and Regulation in India, licenses are issued for different kinds of telecom services. These include:

- Unified Access Service License (UASL) for mobile and basic phone services.
- Internet Service Provider (ISP) license for broadband and internet access.
- Infrastructure Provider license for telecom towers and networks.
- National and International Long Distance licenses for data and voice carriage.

Each license carries obligations related to coverage, quality of service, lawful interception, and customer grievance handling. TRAI ensures that these obligations are not merely formalities but actual operating standards that shape industry behaviour.

Compliance and Monitoring

The Telecom Licensing and Compliance under TRAI Act 1997 provides a detailed framework for monitoring license conditions. Service providers must submit regular performance reports, tariff filings, and network audits to TRAI. The authority reviews these submissions to verify whether the operator is meeting its commitments under law.

If violations are found, TRAI can:

- Direct the licensee to correct deficiencies within a specified period.
- Recommend penalties or suspension of operations for repeated non-compliance.
- Report serious breaches to the Department of Telecommunications for further action.

This layered structure ensures accountability without obstructing business. It encourages companies to operate responsibly while maintaining regulatory oversight for public protection.

Fair Access and Non-Discrimination

An important principle introduced through this law is non-discriminatory access. All licensed operators must provide fair interconnection to other networks and cannot block, delay, or favour specific providers. TRAI monitors such arrangements closely, preventing market manipulation that could harm smaller operators or consumers.

This system of open interconnection has been one of the main reasons for India's telecom success. It allowed new entrants to grow, expanded connectivity, and reduced tariffs through real competition.

Adherence to Quality and Tariff Rules

Compliance is not limited to technical performance. Operators must also adhere to tariff orders, consumer protection guidelines, and quality-of-service benchmarks set by TRAI. Regular audits and field checks are carried out to confirm that these standards are met.

The authority publishes reports comparing service quality among operators, creating public accountability and encouraging companies to improve performance.

Role of TDSAT in Compliance Disputes

When disagreements arise over licensing or compliance, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) under TRAI Act provides a neutral platform for resolution. Disputes over license fees, interconnection, or interpretation of TRAI's orders can be taken before TDSAT. Its judgments carry legal force and often shape future regulatory directions.

Tariff Regulation and Consumer Protection under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 Executive Summary PDF

Tariff regulation has always been one of the most visible aspects of TRAI's work. The authority's role is not limited to setting prices — it ensures that the entire system of communication services remains accessible, affordable, and fair. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Bare Act PDF gives TRAI the power to oversee tariffs, monitor their impact on consumers, and prevent exploitative pricing practices in the telecom market.

In the years before TRAI was established, telecom tariffs were often fixed without transparency. Operators followed a uniform rate structure with little competition or consumer consideration. The introduction of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF changed that. It required a systematic approach to pricing, one that balanced commercial sustainability with public welfare.

Evolution of Tariff Regulation

The TRAI Act 1997 PDF Corrida Legal interpretation highlights that tariff regulation evolved with the industry itself. Initially, TRAI prescribed detailed tariff orders that fixed prices for calls, rentals, and data services. As competition grew, the authority shifted towards a model of tariff forbearance — allowing operators to decide their own prices within broad limits, provided they remained fair and non-discriminatory.

This transition reflected maturity. It encouraged innovation in service plans while keeping consumer protection intact. TRAI continues to monitor tariffs to prevent predatory pricing, hidden charges, or unfair differentials that might distort competition.

Principles Governing Tariff Fixation

TRAI follows a few simple but strong principles while regulating tariffs under Telecom Law and Regulation in India:

1. **Transparency** – All operators must publish their tariffs and inform customers of any changes in advance.
2. **Non-discrimination** – Similar subscribers must be charged similar rates for similar services.
3. **Fair competition** – Operators cannot use pricing to drive competitors out of the market.

4. **Consumer interest** – Tariff orders must ensure affordability for all sections of society, especially in rural and low-income segments.

These principles have ensured that India's telecom prices remain among the lowest in the world while sustaining industry growth.

Consumer Protection Mechanisms

Beyond tariffs, TRAI's role extends to protecting consumers against poor service quality, hidden fees, and misuse of personal data. The Telecom Licensing and Compliance under TRAI Act 1997 obliges operators to maintain a grievance redressal mechanism, appoint nodal officers, and resolve complaints within specific timelines.

TRAI's consumer protection framework covers:

- **Billing accuracy and transparency** – Customers must receive clear and itemised bills.
- **Network performance** – Operators must meet benchmarks for call quality, internet speed, and reliability.
- **Unsolicited communication** – TRAI introduced rules to curb spam calls and messages through the National Do Not Disturb (NDND) registry.
- **Digital literacy and awareness** – Regular campaigns educate consumers about their rights and complaint procedures.

These measures are not optional; they are regulatory obligations monitored through periodic reports and audits.

Tariff Orders and Reporting Obligations

Under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Bare Act PDF, TRAI can issue tariff orders that are binding on all service providers. These orders specify how tariffs must be structured, reported, and publicised. Operators are required to file their tariff plans with TRAI before introducing them to the public.

Failure to comply can lead to penalties, withdrawal of plans, or suspension of services. This system of prior approval prevents misleading offers and ensures that consumers always know what they are paying for.

Handling Consumer Disputes

When consumer disputes arise — whether over billing, service quality, or tariff misrepresentation — the first level of resolution lies with the service provider. If the complaint remains unresolved, TRAI's oversight allows the issue to escalate to higher authorities. For larger or technical disputes between consumers and operators, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) under TRAI Act acts as the final adjudicatory body.

This multi-layered grievance mechanism ensures that justice is accessible and efficient. It also reinforces accountability in a sector where millions of small consumers depend on reliable service every day.

Corrida Legal Insight

Corrida Legal's interpretation of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF observes that tariff control and consumer protection are not two separate goals — they are deeply connected. By regulating prices and enforcing service quality, TRAI protects the trust that keeps the industry functioning.

The authority's approach combines flexibility with responsibility. It allows competition to flourish, but always within the framework of fairness. Over time, this has helped India build one of the most competitive yet consumer-friendly telecom markets in the world.

Spectrum Management and Interconnection Regulation under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 Executive Summary PDF

Spectrum is the invisible foundation on which all modern communication stands. Every call, message, or data transmission depends on this limited natural resource. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Bare Act PDF recognises spectrum as a national asset that must be used efficiently and fairly. Managing it is not only a technical task but a matter of public policy and economic balance.

Before the 1997 Act, spectrum allocation and management were entirely under the control of the Department of Telecommunications. The system lacked transparency, and disputes were frequent. With the creation of TRAI, the process became more structured. The regulator was given the responsibility to advise the Government on spectrum use, allocation, and pricing. Over time, this role evolved into one of the most critical aspects of TRAI's work.

Role of TRAI in Spectrum Management

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF outlines that TRAI does not directly allocate spectrum — that remains the Government's function — but it plays a central role in shaping how spectrum is distributed, shared, and priced. The authority examines market demand, technological requirements, and competition levels before making recommendations on auctions or renewals.

TRAI's guidance ensures that spectrum allocation supports both national priorities and business viability. The TRAI Act 1997 PDF Corrida Legal interpretation notes that its recommendations have led to major reforms such as transparent auction mechanisms, liberalisation of spectrum use, and guidelines for trading and sharing between operators.

Spectrum Pricing and Auctions

Pricing spectrum is a complex exercise that affects government revenue, industry cost, and consumer affordability. TRAI develops detailed consultation papers to determine reserve prices and auction formats. These papers take into account international benchmarks, market readiness, and financial health of operators.

The objective is always balanced — spectrum should generate fair value for the public while ensuring that operators can use it sustainably without burdening consumers. This transparent approach has reduced disputes and improved efficiency in spectrum utilisation.

Interconnection Regulation

Interconnection — the ability of one network to connect with another — is what makes communication seamless across service providers. Without it, consumers on different networks would not be able to talk or share data with each other.

The Telecom Law and Regulation in India treats interconnection as a mandatory obligation. TRAI's role is to ensure that these connections remain fair, non-discriminatory, and technically efficient. It frames interconnection regulations, monitors agreements, and resolves conflicts related to connectivity and charges.

The authority also prescribes interconnection usage charges (IUC), which operators pay one another for carrying calls across networks. This system prevents misuse of infrastructure and ensures that small operators can compete with established ones on equal terms.

Challenges in Spectrum and Interconnection

Despite progress, managing spectrum and interconnection remains one of the most challenging aspects of regulation. The rapid growth of mobile data, 5G deployment, and over-the-top (OTT) communication has placed new pressure on limited resources. TRAI continuously updates its recommendations to accommodate new technologies and changing traffic patterns.

In interconnection, conflicts still arise over quality, charges, and access. TRAI's regular reviews and public consultations play an important role in keeping these issues in check.

Compliance Obligations for Operators

Under the Telecom Licensing and Compliance under TRAI Act 1997, operators must:

- Use spectrum only for authorised purposes.
- Maintain required technical and security standards.
- Report usage and interference data to the regulator.
- Enter into fair and transparent interconnection agreements.

Any violation of these obligations can attract penalties or restrictions. Persistent breaches may also be referred to the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) under TRAI Act for adjudication.

Executive Summary of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 established a modern regulatory framework for the country's telecom sector. It was designed to ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability as India moved from a state-controlled system to a liberalised communication market. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Bare Act PDF captures the foundation of this transformation through the creation of TRAI — an independent body regulating telecom operations, tariffs, and consumer protection.

Key Highlights

1. **Purpose of the Act**
   - To create an independent authority (TRAI) for regulating and supervising telecom services.
   - To ensure that competition, innovation, and consumer welfare remain central to sectoral growth.
   - To separate policy formulation (Government) from regulation (TRAI).
2. **Structure of the Authority**
   - The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF defines TRAI's structure as a Chairperson with full-time and part-time Members.
   - Members are selected for their expertise in law, technology, finance, and management.
   - The design ensures professional independence and technical competence in decision-making.
3. **Core Functions of TRAI**
   - **Regulatory:** Oversees tariffs, service quality, and interconnection between operators.
   - **Recommendatory:** Advises the Government on licensing, mergers, and spectrum policies.
   - **Supervisory:** Monitors compliance, issues directions, and imposes penalties for violations.
4. **Tariff Regulation and Consumer Protection**
   - TRAI ensures affordability, transparency, and non-discrimination in telecom pricing.
   - Establishes grievance redressal mechanisms and quality benchmarks for operators.
   - Periodic reviews protect users from overcharging and poor service.
5. **Licensing and Compliance Framework**
   - The TRAI Act 1997 PDF Corrida Legal interpretation shows that TRAI oversees how licenses are granted and maintained.
   - It reviews operator performance, enforces obligations, and promotes fair market access.

- Encourages healthy competition through consistent supervision and reporting.

6. **Spectrum and Interconnection Regulation**
   - TRAI advises on allocation, trading, and efficient use of radio spectrum.
   - Regulates interconnection agreements to ensure equal access and fair network sharing.
   - Prevents anti-competitive behaviour and network discrimination.
7. **Dispute Resolution through TDSAT**
   - The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) under TRAI Act was introduced in 2000.
   - It provides an independent platform for resolving disputes between telecom companies, consumers, and TRAI.
   - Separates regulatory and judicial functions for greater efficiency.
8. **Impact on Telecom Sector**
   - Encouraged private participation and foreign investment.
   - Improved service quality and reduced tariffs through competition.
   - Made India’s telecom sector one of the most affordable and accessible in the world.
9. **Corrida Legal Insight**
   - Corrida Legal’s reading of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF shows that the law’s strength lies in its adaptability.
   - The framework supports new technologies like 5G and digital broadcasting while maintaining consumer protection.
   - The Act continues to serve as the backbone of India’s telecom governance and regulatory consistency.

Conclusion of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 Executive Summary PDF

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 marked a turning point in the country’s economic and institutional evolution. It replaced a monopolised, government-driven communication system with a transparent and accountable framework that could support competition, private participation, and public interest. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Bare Act PDF reflects this shift — from control to governance, from exclusivity to access.

The law established TRAI as an independent authority that could regulate tariffs, licensing, and service standards without political interference. It gave India’s telecom sector the stability it needed to grow into one of the world’s largest and most affordable communication networks. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 Executive Summary PDF also shows how TRAI became a bridge between technology, law, and society — ensuring that advancement never came at the expense of fairness or consumer rights.

Over the years, TRAI’s powers have evolved through amendments, most notably the creation of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) under TRAI Act, which introduced a balanced system of regulation and adjudication. Together, these institutions continue to uphold the integrity of the telecom ecosystem.

Corrida Legal’s reading of the TRAI Act 1997 PDF Corrida Legal interpretation underlines a key point — the Act was never just about supervision; it was about building trust. By embedding principles of transparency, independence, and accountability, it ensured that telecom became a service for all, not a privilege for a few.

As the industry enters the next phase of digital transformation with 5G, broadband expansion, and new communication technologies, the Telecom Law and Regulation in India continues to draw strength from this Act. It remains a reminder that good regulation is not about control — it is about guidance, balance, and responsibility.

The Telecom Licensing and Compliance under TRAI Act 1997 and its continuing evolution prove the enduring relevance of the 1997 law. Decades later, the framework still delivers on its founding promise: to connect India through fairness, discipline, and innovation, under a regulatory system built on trust.