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TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TELECOM CYBER SECURITY) AMENDMENT RULES, 2025

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Enhancing Telecom Cyber Security in India

An overview of the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Amendment Rules, 2025, and its implications for licensees, authorised entities, and Telecommunication Identifier User Entities (TIUEs) in India.

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Introduction of the Telecom Cyber Security Amendment Rules, 2025

The Amendment

The Ministry of Communications notified the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Amendment Rules, 2025, amending the 2024 Rules.

Effective Date

The provisions of the new rules came into force on **22nd October 2025**.

These amendments introduce key measures focused on telecommunication identifier validation and equipment regulation to bolster national cyber security.

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Key Definitions Introduced by the Amendment

Licensee

A person holding a license to provide telecommunications services in India.

Validation

The process of confirming whether a user's telecommunication identifier corresponds to the user in an authorised entity's database.

TIUE (Telecommunication Identifier User Entity)

A non-licensee/non-authorised entity that uses telecommunication identifiers for customer identification or service delivery.

MNV Platform

Mobile Number Validation platform established for validation checks by authorised entities and licensees against user databases.

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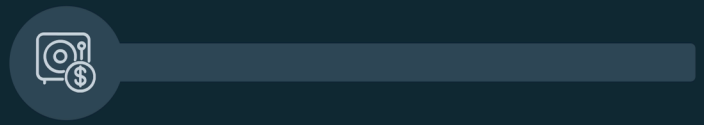
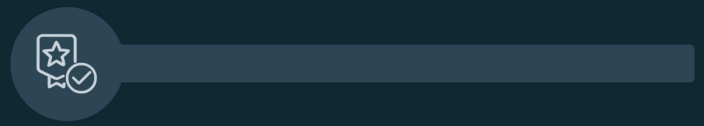
Rule 7-A: Validation of Telecommunication Identifiers

This new rule enables the Central Government to establish the MNV platform to ensure telecom cyber security and prevent security incidents.



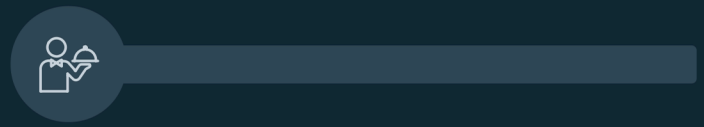
Central Mandate

The Central Government can issue directions for authorised entities and licensees to participate in the MNV platform.



Validation Request

Entities can place a request on the MNV platform for validation of telecommunication identifiers against user databases.



Service Purpose

Facilitates the validation of customers/users associated with a telecommunication identifier for services linked to that identifier.

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Who Can Request Validation on the MNV Platform?

1	2	3
Government Authorities	**TIUE (Upon Direction)**	**TIUE (Suo Moto)**
The Central Government or State Government, or any agency authorised by them, can seek validation.	A TIUE directed by the Central/State Government or an authorised agency must comply with the validation request.	A TIUE may place a request on its own initiative, though the final decision on validation rests with the Central Government.

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Financial Model for the MNV Platform

Fees are charged for the use of the MNV platform, ensuring sustainable operation and shared benefit among participating entities.

Platform Fee

A prescribed fee must be paid by the requesting entity (TIUE, Government, or agency).

Authorised Entity/Licensee

Receives a share for providing the actual validation services from their user database.

Revenue Sharing

The fee will be shared between two primary parties providing and maintaining the service.

Central Government/Agency

Receives a share for establishing and maintaining the MNV platform.

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Revised Obligations on Telecommunication Equipment (IMEI)

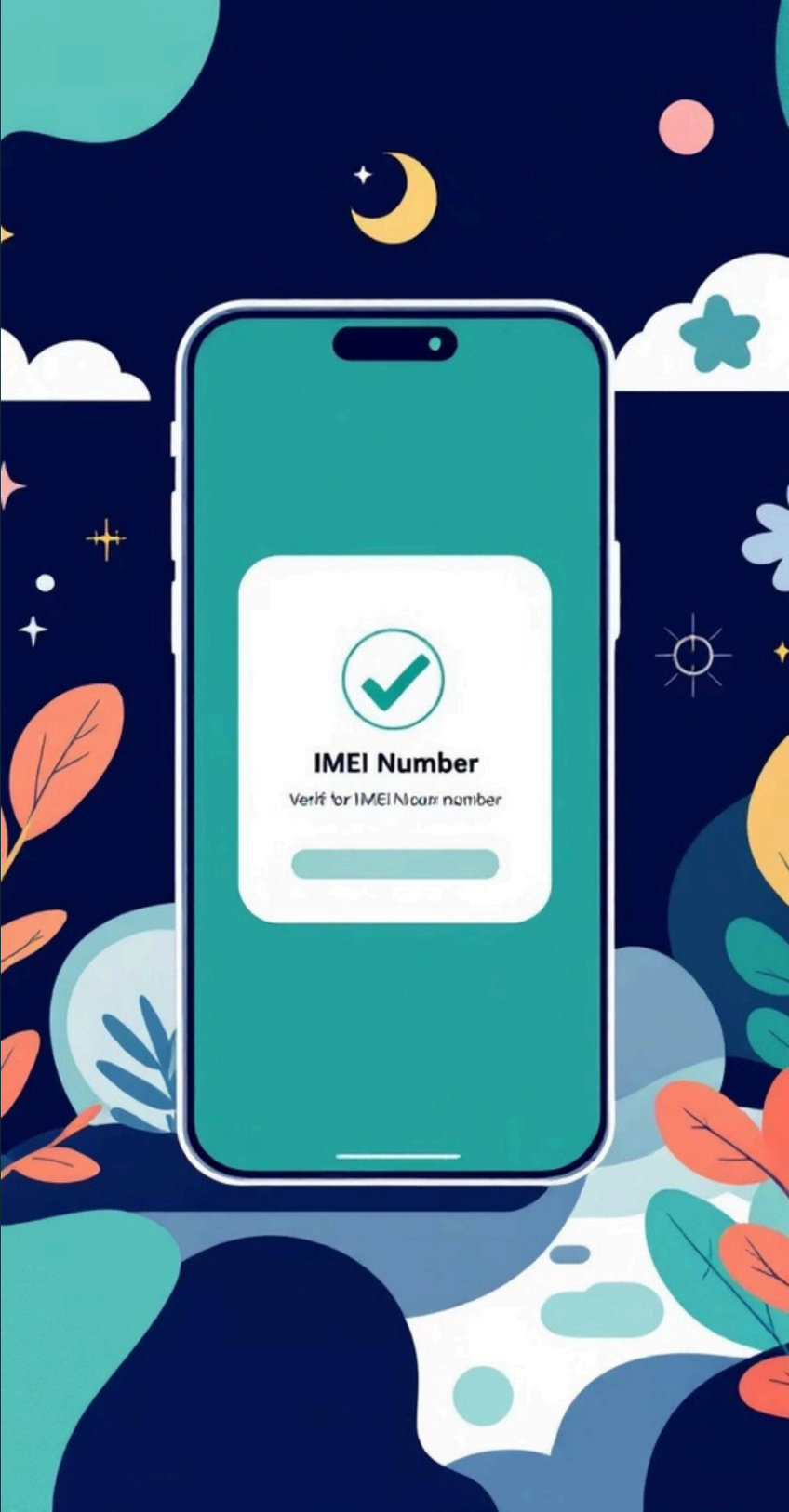
The Central Government has introduced stringent controls over International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers to combat fraud and monitor equipment usage.

IMEI Assignment Restriction

Manufacturers of equipment bearing IMEI must not assign IMEIs already in use in Indian telecom networks to new devices (manufactured or imported).

Central Database

The Central Government will maintain a database of IMEIs that are tampered with or whose usage has been restricted.



New Compliance for Equipment Manufacturers and Importers

Mandatory Compliance

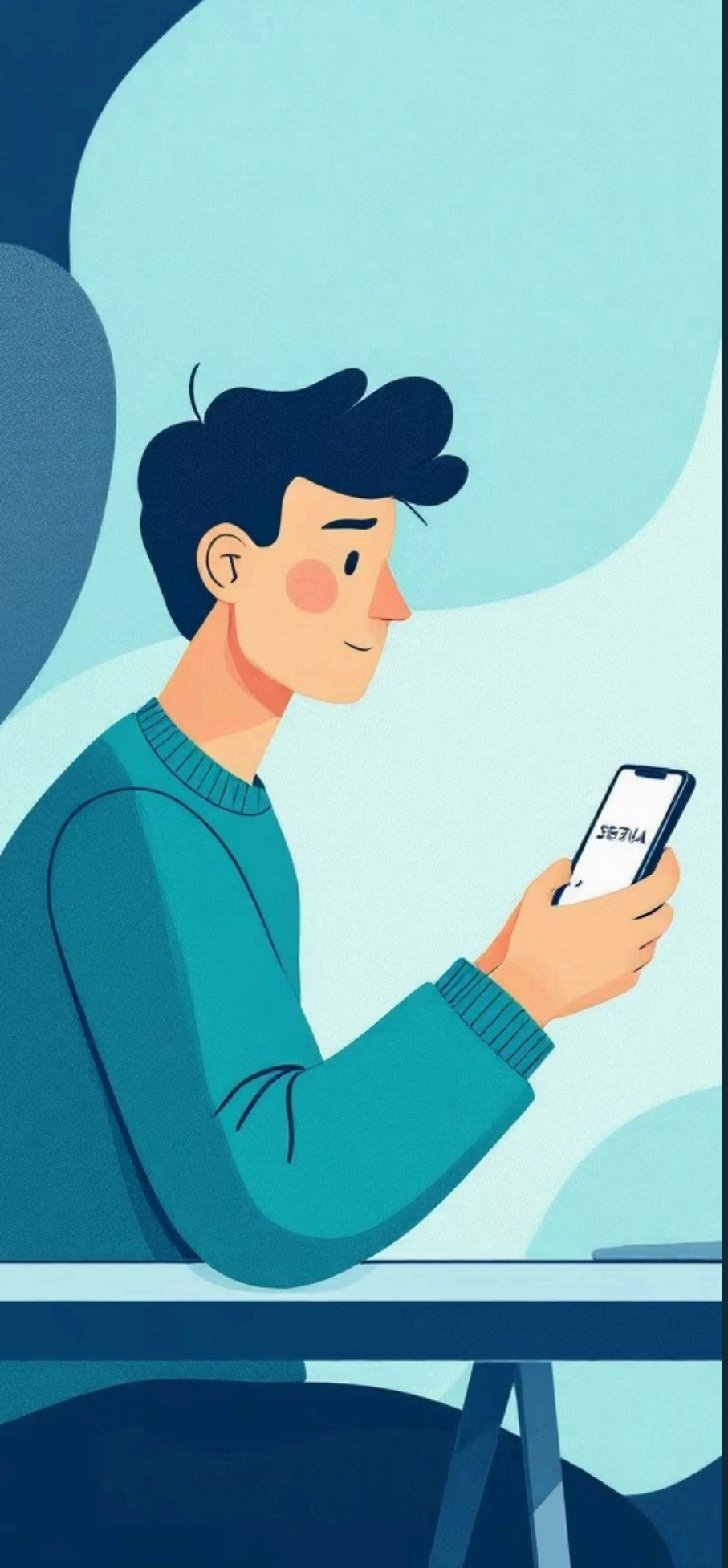
Every manufacturer or importer of telecommunications equipment that bears an IMEI number must strictly ensure compliance with all directions issued by the Central Government via the portal.

- Applies to both devices manufactured in India and those imported.
- The compliance date will be specified by the Central Government on the portal.

Preventing Duplication

The primary goal is to prevent the assignment of duplicate or tampered IMEI numbers, a critical step in reducing mobile-related cyber crimes and tracking stolen devices.

> Ensuring a unique and valid IMEI for every device is foundational to a secure telecom ecosystem.



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Regulation of Used Telecommunication Equipment

New protocols are mandated for the sale and purchase of used telecom equipment with an IMEI number within India.

Verification Mandate

Before selling or purchasing, the user must check the Government's centralized database.

Fee Payment

The user must pay the requisite fee to access the database check.

Listing Check

The seller/buyer must ensure the equipment is **not** listed in the database (i.e., not tampered or restricted).

Proceed to Sale

Only compliant equipment can proceed with the sale or purchase transaction.

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Key Takeaways for Stakeholders

These amendments underscore India's commitment to strengthening its digital security infrastructure.

Licensees & Authorised Entities

Mandatory participation in the MNV platform for user identifier validation and compliance with IMEI directives.

TIUEs

New obligation to validate customer identifiers, particularly when directed by Government agencies, subject to payment of fees.

Manufacturers & Importers

Strict compliance with IMEI assignment rules to avoid duplicating or using restricted numbers.

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