

U-11062/23/Telecom/2024-DMEO
Government of India
NITI Aayog
Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office

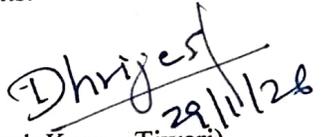
NITI Bhawan, New Delhi
Date: 29.01.2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: PM Sector Review Meeting - D/o Telecommunications for FY 2024-25 - reg.

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 07.01.2026 to review progress made in the Telecommunications Sector. Minutes of the Meeting are enclosed herewith for information and necessary action.

2. Department of Telecommunications would be the nodal Ministry for coordination with the Ministries/Departments concerned and to report progress on action points.
3. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.


(Dhrijesh Kumar Tiwari)
Joint Secretary
Tel: 23096740

To,

1. Secretary, D/o Telecommunications
2. Secretary, D/o Defence
3. Secretary, M/o Home Affairs
4. Secretary, D/o Revenue

Copy for Information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Communications
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications
3. PPS to Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Prime Minister
4. PPS to Principal Secretary - 2 to Hon'ble Prime Minister
5. PS to Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog
6. PS to Member, NITI Aayog
7. PPS to Cabinet Secretary, Govt. of India
8. PPS to CEO, NITI Aayog
9. PS to Shri Tarun Kapoor, Advisor to Hon'ble Prime Minister
10. PPS to Secretary, D/o Expenditure
11. PPS to DG, DMEO, NITI Aayog

12. PS to Shri M. S. Srikar, Additional Secretary to PM
13. Programme Director, IT & Telecom Division, NITI Aayog
14. Shri Rugved Milind Thakur, Director, PMO

Dhrijesh
29/1/28

(Dhrijesh Kumar Tiwari)
Joint Secretary

Minutes of Meeting

FY 2024-25 Sector Review: Telecommunications

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 7th January 2026 to review progress made in the Telecommunications Sector. The main points for action by the Ministry/Department along with timelines are as under:

S. No.	Action Suggested	Responsible Ministry/ Department	Timeline
1	Department may explore possibility of generating revenue through taxation from data usage in the country. Department may come up with a model that promotes data consumption for positive activities while at the same time curb the negative activities that are likely to result in addiction especially among children.	DoT	30.09.2026
2	Department must support the Made in India technology that has been successfully implemented in the country. Indian technology may be promoted in other countries especially of Africa. However, people who are creating hurdles for suppliers of this technology should be dealt with sternly.	DoT	30.09.2026
3	There is need for the department to promote sharing of towers for telecom as well as other services.	DoT	30.09.2026
4	It was observed that India is still dependent on foreign countries for various telecom network components. There is need to work with commitment towards Atmanirbharta in telecom. Department may prepare a roadmap by targeting at least 10 major components every year for indigenization.	DoT	30.06.2026
5	There is need for a smooth mechanism for granting Right of Way access for various utilities. Presently, States and local bodies have their own rules and procedures that is hindering development works. Cabinet Secretary may explore linking Right of Way permissions/rules with a scheme.	Cabinet Secretariat, DoT	31.08.2026
6	Secretary. Revenue may examine the customs related issues being faced by submarine cable repair companies and also oil rig repair companies.	Department of Revenue, Department of Expenditure, DoT	30.06.2026

7	It was suggested that Indian companies may be nudged to enter into the submarine cable repair industry as these cables have emerged as a strategic asset. Further, it was suggested that to ensure redundancy, India should encourage more cable landing stations.	DoT	30.10.2026
8	In the present geopolitical environment, there are several attempts at bugging or snooping on the national telecom infrastructure of the country. Department may come up with a mechanism that will be responsible for ensuring the safety of Indian Telecom Network. Quarterly meetings may be held between Department of Telecom, Defence and other agencies on the subject.	DoT, D/o Defence, MHA	30.06.2026 and ongoing
9	Department may examine the provision of foreign SIM cards being kept by Indian citizens while in India.	DoT	31.07.2026
10	It was observed that BSNL is a human resource heavy organization. Steps may be taken to repatriate all persons on deputation from other departments with BSNL. Further, assessment of all personnel may be carried out with regard to their suitability for the organization and efforts be made to reduce staff.	DoT	31.10.2026
11	Department may make efforts to increase its subscribers in government including personnel in the army, BSF etc.	DoT	30.09.2026
12	Cabinet Secretary may conduct regular review of the BharatNet project to ensure that the network is robust and is able to serve as the digital backbone of the country.	Cabinet Secretariat, DoT	30.04.2026 and ongoing
13	Department may work towards restricting signals of mobile towers belonging to neighbouring countries in border areas.	DoT	31.07.2026
14	Communication technology is the fastest changing technology. A communication technology task force may be formed to guide the country on adapting to new communication technologies.	DoT	30.04.2026
15	Department may ensure that SIM cards are issued only on the basis of Aadhaar cards after biometric verification.	DoT	30.04.2026

Note: Departments/ Ministries with primary responsibility are shown in **BOLD**

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

From Ministries/ Departments:

1. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Minister, M/o Communications
2. Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Hon'ble Minister of State, M/o Communications
3. Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog
4. Shri Rajiv Gauba, Member, NITI Aayog
5. Shri T.V. Somanathan, Cabinet Secretary
6. Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog
7. Shri Vumlunmang Vualnam, Secretary, D/o Expenditure
8. Dr. Amit Agrawal, Secretary, Telecom

From PMO:

1. Dr. P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to PM
2. Shri Shaktikanta Das, Principal Secretary-2 to PM
3. Shri Tarun Kapoor, Advisor to PM
4. Shri M. S. Srikar, Additional Secretary to PM
5. Shri Rugved Milind Thakur, Director, PMO