Management of Net Neutrality - Challenges Ahead

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Abstract: India is on the verge of a complete telecom revolution with 997 telecom subscribers & 99.20 million Internet subscribers . Out of 300million subscribers 90% subscribers are on wireless media . Access to internet is increasing by leaps & bounds. Providing service to these increasing number of internet users is being questioned as it is involving private companies as well. The concept of net neutrality is being conjectured these days because there are concerns about providing balanced service by net service providers. The principal that the internet service providers should enable access to all content & applications regardless of the source without favoring or blocking particular products or websites. But there have been few violations of net neutrality by Indian service providers. There is a need for regulation involving a uniform policy adherence. Along with change in technology the policy interventions needs to involve these changes. National security is of paramount significance hence nothing is beyond National interest, hence there should be regulations to carry these interests forwards without harming National security issues. This paper examines the significance of net neutrality & the imperative need for framing net neutrality regulations through comprehensive policy formulation.

Key words: Net neutrality, need for government interventions, safeguarding National interests,

Introduction : This is the age of globalization with 997 telecom subscribers (report of TRAI 2015 October) , 99.20 million Internet subscribers .Out of 300million subscribers 90% subscribers are on wireless media .Globe has been connected with internet. Internet has linked people across the globe in an integrated way. Internet means open access to information. Internet should allow people to connect & exchange information freely without any hassles. In India there are telephones or the landline telephones were working in this line . One could call any body or connect to anybody without hassles or barriers. In this telephone there was no blocking the access nor deliberate delay in connection nor any forced rejection .

Barriers in service providing -in providing internet service there has been several barriers to information. Service provides deliberately ban the access or rejects the requisition seeking information. ISP is distinguished as BSNL & MTNL. These two are government owned & operated while there are several other private service providers .Important among them are

1. Air cel
2. Air tel
3. Hathaway
4. Idea cellular
5. Reliance
6. Tata Docomo
7. Tata Indicom

8. Siti cable

9. Vodafone

The Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI)

The Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI) was set up in 1998 with a mission to 'Promote Internet for the benefit of all'. ISPAI is the collective voice of the ISP fraternity and by extension the entire Internet community. Over the years ISPAI has helped influence, shape and mould the telecom policies, so that ISPs and entrepreneurs in the business of Internet can setup and grow their services in an environment that is supportive and enabling. (The Report Of TRAI 2015). It is breaking down monopolistic structures in telecom, bringing down barriers to entry for ISPs. It helped shape India from being a bandwidth hungry to a bandwidth surplus country. It was the competitive spirit of the ISP members of ISPAI that, Internet access became so widely and cost effectively available to our countrymen. (The Report Of TRAI 2015).

These very ISPs helped connect India to the rest of the world so effectively that today BPO and Call Centers cannot but make their global presence felt based on IP connectivity. India is today is arguably amongst the top 10 countries of the world in terms of the number of Internet users. (The Report Of TRAI 2015).

ISPAI

ISPAI is the recognized apex body of Indian ISPs worldwide. ISPAI has access to and interacts frequently with international bodies and platforms and is frequently consulted by them on

measures for future trends and growth of Internet. It works closely with the Government, the Regulator as well as the major Industry Chambers. It supports exchange of delegations, business visitors from across the globe which provides ISP members a chance to network widely and seek opportunities elsewhere too. It's a platform for the Solution Provider's community such as Hardware and Software manufacturers and suppliers to gain easy access to their ISP clients, promote their products and services through personal meetings and through events supported or sponsored by ISPAI. (The Report Of TRAI 2015). Broadband services do not come under uniform telecom regulations a uniform regulations would be a significant step toward defining the powers of Internet service providers and, according to some observers, would create the kind of level online playing field that is the goal of net neutrality advocates.

Data revenue accounts for less than 20% of the total mobile revenue of Indian telcos, against close to 30% in China. But with falling handset prices, data subscribers in India are likely to grow at an average 25% every year to reach 519 million by fiscal 2018, (A July 2014 report by Morgan Stanley on Infrastructure spending). & (The Report Of TRAI 2015). This would include the purchase of spectrum (for which the government received bids worth Rs.1.10 trillion in the auctions), setting up telecom towers and fibre optic cables, and paying municipal councils for the rights. Introduction of new technologies has accelerated the process of including user studies as one of the basic elements in an overall program of customer service. The sophistication and richness of our understanding of the issues surrounding usage of digital

objects and consequent implications for digital preservation requires more research.

Report on the committee on net neutrality -The recommendations of the Net neutrality Committee broadly contain technical, regulatory and public policy related measures required with respect to Net Neutrality issue. Suggestions and comments on the report and recommendations are summarized through discussion forums. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is also engaged in consultation process on the issue whose recommendations are awaited. It is emphasized that the views expressed in the report are that of the Committee and not of the Government. People's valuable comments, wide scale consultations, as also the report of the TRAI will help the Government to take appropriate decision on the issue. (The Report Of TRAI 2015). As the digital revolution becomes infused into everyday life, the ways in which society communicates and uses information are changing. New processes are emerging that were inconceivable in a solely analogue world. National libraries and archives, as the custodians of a society's information, have the responsibility to safeguard these records and to provide sustained access to digital cultural and scientific knowledge. Introduction of new technologies has accelerated the process of including user studies as one of the basic elements in an overall program of customer service. The sophistication and richness of our understanding of the issues surrounding usage of digital objects and consequent implications for digital preservation requires more research.

Conclusion- Hence **,** there is need to apply adherence in context of net

neutrality at affordable broad band services across India . There is an immediate need to maintain a quality broadband service as well. Internet providing should be service based &not business based as it affects the National interests. Indian government should think of regulations which involves uniform policy adherence abut Net Neutrality issues . Along with change in technology the policy interventions should involve these changes. National security is of paramount significance hence nothing is beyond National interests, hence there should be regulations to carry these interests forward without harming National security issues.

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