

Telcos seek uniform satcom, OTT rules

QJASVI GUPTA
New Delhi, October 12

TELECOM OPERATORS ARE pressing the department of telecommunications (DoT) to ensure a level regulatory playing field for satellite communication (satcom) and over-the-top (OTT) platforms, saying existing rules need to evolve in line with the digital economy.

"Satcom is complementary, not competing. It can help extend coverage in rural areas faster and cheaper. But it must operate under the same rules if it's offering the same services," SP Kochhar, director general, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), told FE. COAI's members include private telecom majors Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, and Vodafone Idea.

The push comes as global satellite players such as Eutelsat OneWeb, Jio-Sat, and Starlink prepare to enter the broadband market, with their services ready for rollout. Telcos argue that asymmetrical regulation could distort market dynamics if similar services are governed by different standards.

Satellite internet providers, including Viasat, OneWeb, Hughes, and Neko, have urged the DoT to create a separate licence category for satcom operators. They claim that the draft telecom authorisation framework could slow growth

AT A GLANCE

■ Operators want common rules for satcom and OTT platforms

■ Satellite players oppose being regulated like traditional telcos

■ Telcos demand Netflix and WhatsApp share infrastructure costs

■ Industry seeks lower reserve prices ahead of 6G and satcom expansion



and discourage investment if it subjects satellite services to the same rules as traditional telecom operators.

Both sides have raised concerns over regulatory delays and the structure of approvals for satellite-based connectivity. Incumbent telcos argue that preferential treatment for new entrants could undercut players already burdened by high spectrum costs and statutory levies.

Another major demand from telecom operators is regulatory intervention to make OTT platforms contribute to infrastructure expenses. "They are contributing nearly 70% of the traffic but paying nothing. If someone is getting something

free, they won't come to the table voluntarily. The government should make them sit and decide," Kochhar added.

Operators want a framework that would require major OTTs like Netflix, WhatsApp, Amazon Prime Video, Facebook, Instagram, and Zoom to pay a share of network costs, possibly through a levy similar to the Universal Service Obligation fee.

Telcos also want lower spectrum reserve prices and rationalised levies, arguing that the current pricing models date back to the 2G era and are unsuited to today's digital ecosystem. They say fair pricing is crucial as the industry prepares for 6G deployment.

Gold import widens trade gap to \$28 bn last month

ANI
New Delhi, October 12

INDIA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE deficit likely widened to \$28 billion in September from \$26.5 billion in August, driven by a sharp jump in gold imports, Union Bank of India said in a report.

Gold shipments nearly doubled month-on-month despite record-high prices, spurred by festive and wedding season demand. The rally in prices came even as global commodity prices rose only modestly, with the CRV index ticking up to 301.78 from 296.64. A delay in the US-India trade agreement also likely pressured exports. The US accounts for about 20% of India's outbound goods trade.

The trade deficit is expected to stay elevated in the near term, supported by strong seasonal gold demand, firm energy needs, and continued reliance on electronics and capital goods imports. While lower global commodity prices and import substitution efforts may offer partial relief, export growth remains weak amid soft global demand and tariff hurdles.

Trade talks between India and America are progressing, with discussions on a first-phase agreement may continue through November.

MBBS student rape: Why was she out at night, asks Bengal CM; faces Opp fire

SWEETY KUMARI
Kolkata, October 12

EVEN AS WEST Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Sunday said she was "shocked" by the alleged gangrape of a student of a private medical college in Paschim Bardhaman and assured that no accused would be spared, she raised questions over women hostellers "venturing out so late at night".

Before heading to north Bengal, Banerjee, when asked to comment on the rape incident, said: "It is a shocking incident. The girl was studying in a private medical college. Whose responsibility is it? How did she (the medical student) come out (of the hostel) at 12.30 am? As far as I know, it happened in the jungle. I don't know what happened at 12.30 am."

"Private medical institutions should be careful. They



must take care of their students. Especially, when it is girls' students, they should not be allowed to go out at night."

"I appeal to students who come from other states to not stay out at night. So, it is everyone's right to go out. But it is also a fact that police cannot go and sit at everyone's house. They should protect themselves too, especially in forest areas," she said.

The second-year MBBS student hails from Odisha. She

had gone out of the campus with a friend when four to five men dragged her to a secluded area and allegedly raped her.

The CM assured that all those guilty will be "severely punished". "Three persons have already been arrested based on the girl's statement. We will take strict action... No one will be spared," she said.

Questioning the status of rape cases in other states, Banerjee said, "Three weeks ago, three girls were raped on a beach in Odisha. What has the Odisha government done? If something happens to women in Bengal, we don't take it lightly."

"The incidents in other states are equally condemnable. Many incidents have taken place in Manipur, UP, Bihar, and Odisha... They are happening every day. The government there should also take strict action. We have zero

tolerance here," she said. State BJP chief Samik Bhat-tacharya, "The CM's statement is testimony to lawlessness in the state. She has no right to remain in the CM's post."

CPI (M) leader Sujan Chakraborty alleged she was trying to shift the responsibility to the college. "During RG Kar rape incident, she (Mamata Banerjee) had said girls should not do night duty. Now, she is saying they should not step out at night. The situation in Bengal today has proved that the state is not safe for women..." he said.

Calling her remarks "shameless and shameful", Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar said on X, "The CM cannot possibly evade responsibility for the absolute collapse of law and order. Shockingly, even now, she has chosen to shift the blame onto the private medical college!"

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

3% interest subsidy to MSME exporters

THE SUBSIDISED INTEREST rates on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit for exporters were initially launched on April 1, 2015, for a five-year period. It has been extended multiple times with benefits capped at ₹50 lakh per exporter per Import Export Code (IEC).

The interest equalisation scheme has been credited with enhancing export volumes by reducing effective bank interest rates to 5-7% from 9-12%. It ended in December 2024.

The credit costs of Indian exporters range between 8-12% while the export credit in countries they are competing with is priced at 2-3%. Exporters say the scheme is needed urgently again to bridge the gap in cost of funds.

When the scheme covered almost all exporters it used to



cost around ₹3,700 crore a year. In 2023-24, ₹3,699 crore were spent on the scheme which came down to ₹2,482 crore in 2024-25 as the scheme ran only for three quarters that year.

Recently, inter-ministerial consultations were held on the extension of the scheme as part of the export promotion mission announced in the Budget for FY26.

"It has been suggested that the interest subvention may be provided to only MSME exporters in the revamped scheme," an official said.

Since large exporters usually have cash balances and have bargaining power with their buyers, it was felt by many departments participating in the consultation. It is MSMEs who may have some challenges in the current headwinds due to higher US tariffs.

Officials said the government's focus is on making the scheme more robust for labour-intensive and MSME sectors facing US tariffs up to 50%.

While the MSME exporters may get a relief, the revamped scheme will leave other exporters disappointed. Export organisations led by Federation of Indian Export Organisations

(FIEO) have been seeking the interest subsidy of 5% for all exporters since 50% tariffs by the US came into force late August.

It is not clear whether the interest subvention scheme would be announced as part of the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), which is also in final stages of preparation. The EPM was announced in the Budget with an outlay of ₹2,250 crore. Schemes like Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) have been subsumed in the EPM.

Another aim of the EPM is to lower the cost of credit to exporters. This is likely to be attempted via other means like deepening the factoring market and use of other innovative financial products.

Army gears for first Valley winter after Pahalgam

AMRITA NAYAK TUTTA
New Delhi, October 12

TAKING A SERIES of measures ahead of the Valley winter, the first after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that led to Operation Sindoor and hostilities with Pakistan, the Indian Army is strengthening the anti-infiltration grid, sealing and securing key locations, enhancing the Line of Control (LoC) fence and redeploying existing troops in the area, The Indian Express has learnt.

According to security sources, there is a possibility of an increase in infiltration attempts by terrorists from across the border before the winter sets in. Terrorists are likely to change their modus operandi, which necessitates corresponding adjustments in how security forces operate.

For example, unlike past instances of terrorists establishing a single hideout away from populated areas, they are now expected to use two-three hideouts located within a radius of three to five kilometres and switch between them using the snow cover.

The terrorists, sources said, may avoid communicating



from their hideouts and will instead go for it only when they are closer to populated areas. And instead of relying completely on specialised applications to send encrypted messages, they are likely to utilise the local mobile network to avoid detection, blending in with the high volume of calls in that network. They are likely to move out of their hideouts only in extreme emergencies.

Last year, The Indian Express reported that terrorists were using the Ultra Set communication equipment to encrypt and send messages to their handlers across the LoC. This basic radio set, connected to a mobile set without a SIM card, can be switched off immediately after messages

are sent, making it difficult for security forces to intercept the communications.

According to sources, the winter deployment of troops will be carried out in view of the tactics of terrorists. "Efforts will be made to significantly enhance anti-infiltration measures using advanced thermal technology such as thermal imagers, improved cameras, and small drones," a source said.

Learning from past operations, there will be an increased emphasis on gathering human intelligence on the ground in addition to relying on technical intelligence, which has been significantly enhanced over the last few years, the source said.

Sources also indicated that there will be redeployment of certain units from their permanent locations, considering operational requirements, which will prevent complacency among troops and maintain high levels of alertness.

"Such shifts will ensure that troops have fresh opportunities to familiarise themselves with the new terrain they are assigned to," another source said.

These changes might have some immediate administrative effects, but they will yield operational benefits since area domination is expected to increase as a result of the familiarisation efforts.

Moreover, there will be enhanced surveillance along the LoC and within the hinterland. Sources said a quicker reaction capability will be developed through the establishment of speedier Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), and there may be the use of additional drones, including Kamikaze drones. Increased efforts will also be made to improve coordination among security forces and agencies for effective information sharing.

FORM B PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(Under Regulation 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF JIOUJANA CONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED (EARLIER KNOWN AS GOLD STAR BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD.)

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	DETAILS
1.	Name of corporate debtor	Jiojana Construction Private Limited
2.	Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	10/01/2008
3.	Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	ROC - Mumbai
4.	Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U40300MH2008PTC171799
5.	Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	1st Floor, Plot 336/10, F/V Service, Modeli Marsson, Matunga, Mumbai - 400035
6.	Date of closure of insolvency Resolution Process	14.09.2025
7.	Liquidation commencement date of corporate debtor	30-09-2025
8.	Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as liquidator	Mr. Debi Prasanna Sarangi (IBBI/RN-02/P-000158/2017/2018/10405)
9.	Address and e-mail of the liquidator, as registered with the Board	Address: Office No. 125, Bhoomi Mall, Plot No. 19, Sector 21, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, 400614 Email: debi.sarangi@deloitte.com C/o. M/s. Material Insolvency Professionals Private Limited Address: 1221, Maker Chamber V, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021 Email: debi.sarangi@material.com
10.	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the liquidator	10.11.2025 (Thirty days from the receipt of the Liquidation Order)
11.	Last date for submission of claims	

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai has ordered the commencement of liquidation of Jiojana Construction Private Limited (earlier known as Gold Star Builders and Developers Pvt. Ltd.) on 30.09.2025 (Updated on NCLT website on 08.10.2025).

The stakeholders of Jiojana Construction Pvt. Ltd. are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 10.11.2025. The liquidator at the address mentioned against item No. 10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit their claims with the proof in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proof of claims shall attract penalties.

In case a stakeholder does not submit its claims during the liquidation process, the claims submitted by such a stakeholder during the corporate insolvency resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016, shall be deemed to be submitted under item 38.

FORM B PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(Under Regulation 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF SPG MACROSCOPIC LTD.

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	DETAILS
1.	Name of corporate debtor	SPG Macroscopic Limited
2.	Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	08-03-1999
3.	Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies - Gujarat
4.	Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U6120MP1999PLC023447
5.	Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	403, Anish Heritage, Flat No. 203, Indraprastha, Sakinaka, Indore, Madhya Pradesh - 452001 Where books of account are kept - F-50, Prabha CHS Ltd. R. & M. Mittal Marg, Ghatkopar (East), Mumbai - 400073
6.	Date of closure of insolvency Resolution Process	09-10-2025
7.	Liquidation commencement date of corporate debtor	09-10-2025 (Order dated 09-10-2025 received on 10-10-2025)
8.	Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as liquidator	Mr. Manish D. Shah (IBBI/RN-02/P-00094/2017-18/10194)
9.	Address and e-mail of the liquidator, as registered with the Board	A/502, Krishna Palace, Thakur Complex, Kandivli (East), Mumbai - 400011 Email: manish.d.shah@gmail.com
10.	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the liquidator	A/502, Krishna Palace, Thakur Complex, Kandivli (East), Mumbai - 400011 Email: manish.d.shah@gmail.com
11.	Last date for submission of claims	09-11-2025

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal, Indore bench has ordered the commencement of liquidation of SPG Macroscopic Limited on 09-10-2025.

The stakeholders of SPG Macroscopic Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 09-11-2025, being 30 days from the date of receipt of the Liquidation Order at the address mentioned against item No. 10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit their claims with the proof in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proof of claims shall attract penalties.

In case a stakeholder does not submit its claims during the liquidation process, the claims submitted by such a stakeholder during the corporate insolvency resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016, shall be deemed to be submitted under item 38.

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