25 Years of TRAI Act

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सत्यमेव जयते

Evolution in the last 25 years

TRAI Act 1997

Establishment of TRAI with adjudicating powers with the responsibility of regulating telecom services

TRAI Act Amendments

- **2000- Creation of TDSAT to adjudicate disputes and dispose of appeals, Separation of TRAI's recommendatory and regulatory functions, etc.**
- **2004- DoT notifications bringing broadcasting and cable services within the jurisdiction of TRAI**

Policy Framework Evolution

NTP 1994

- Envisaged the availability of telephone on demand, to achieve universal service covering all villages, to provide widest permissible range of services to meet the customer's demand at reasonable prices, to ensure that India emerges as a major manufacturing base and major exporter of telecom equipment

NTP 1999

- Envisaged increase in tele-density, affordable pricing of services, fair and transparent policy environment, promoting a level playing field and facilitating fair competition, address general consumer concerns relating to availability, pricing and QoS and to protect the interest of consumers.

Policy Framework Evaluation

NTP 2012

- Envisaged to ensure that India transforms the socio-economic scenario through accelerated equitable and inclusive economic growth by laying special emphasis on providing affordable, reliable and secure telecommunication and broadband services across the entire country including in rural and remote areas

NDCP 2018

- Envisions to fulfill the information and communication needs of citizens and enterprises through establishment of secure, accessible and affordable digital communications infrastructure
- Objective of provisioning of Broadband for all, enhancing India's contribution to Global Value Chains; and ensuring Digital Sovereignty.
- Mission to Connect India, Propel India and Secure India

The Context

- **Policy and regulatory issues emerged in Telecom sector due to liberalization, technological changes and entry of private players :**

✓**Tariff Norms**

✓**Quality of Service**

✓**Allocation of Spectrum**

✓**Infrastructure sharing**

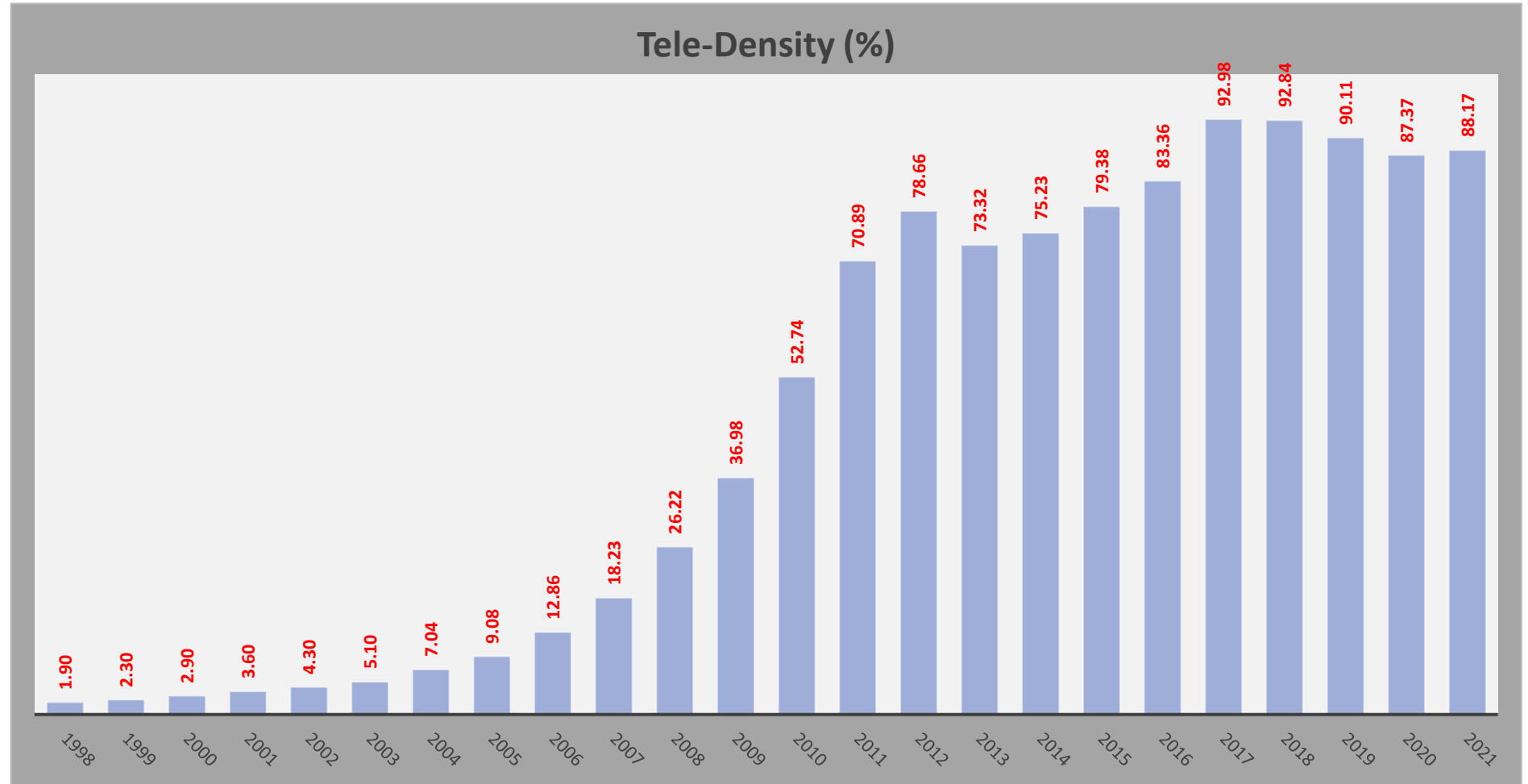✓**Interconnection among service providers**

Objectives

- **Regulate the telecom services**
- **Protect the interest of service providers and consumers of telecom sector**
- **Promote orderly growth of the Telecom Sector**

Achievements so far

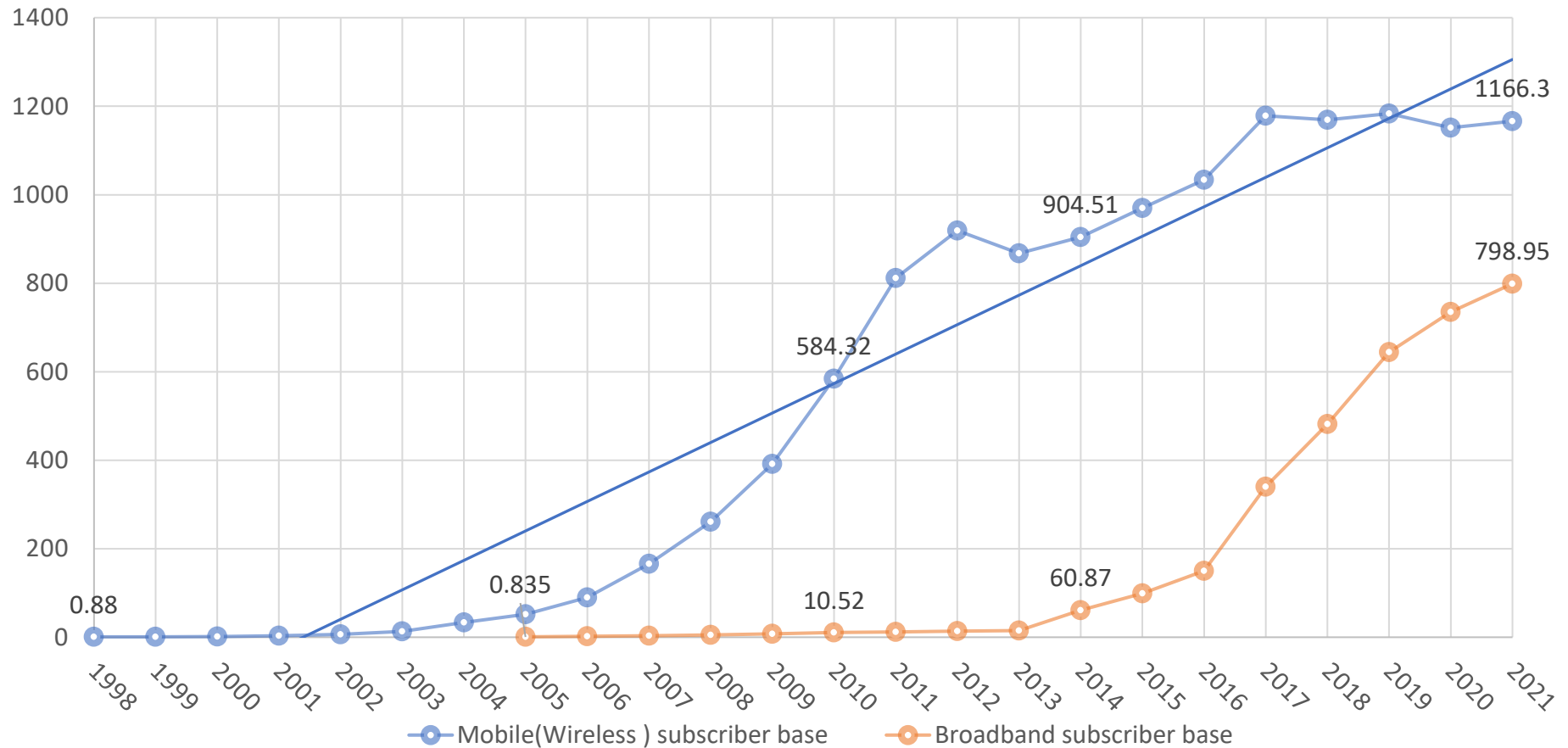- **TRAI Act has proved to be a robust and evolving enactment**
- **Has successfully handled regulatory issues relating to technological changes, consumer protection etc.**
- **Follows a very robust and transparent consultative mechanism**
- **Recommendations to Government on issues relating to policy changes, technology, etc.**
- **Regulations relating to both telecom and broadcasting sector**

Growth of Telecommunications Sector

Tele-Density (%)

Year	Value
1998	1.90
1999	2.30
2000	2.90
2001	3.60
2002	4.30
2003	5.10
2004	7.04
2005	9.08
2006	12.86
2007	18.23
2008	26.22
2009	36.98
2010	52.74
2011	70.89
2012	78.66
2013	73.32
2014	75.23
2015	79.38
2016	83.36
2017	92.98
2018	92.84
2019	90.11
2020	87.37
2021	88.17

Growth in Mobile & Broadband subscribers (in millions)

Chart legend: Mobile(Wireless) subscriber base, Broadband subscriber base

Data labels shown on chart:
- 0.88
- 0.835
- 584.32
- 904.51
- 1166.3
- 10.52
- 60.87
- 798.95

X-axis years: 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Y-axis: 0, 200, 400, 600, 800, 1000, 1200, 1400

Tariff in Telecommunications Sector

- **TRAI has the powers to fix the tariffs. Over the years the regulator has moved from fixation of tariffs to, 'Forbearance with prior approval' to 'Forbearance regime with post facto reporting obligation'.**

- **The data tariffs have fallen steeply from Rs. 269 per GB in 2014 to Rs 11 per GB in 2020.**

- **The tariffs in India are one of the lowest in the world.**

Tariff in Telecommunications Sector

The comparative data cost per GB

Country	Data cost in Rs (PPP adjusted) per GB [for 2020]
INDIA	10.90
U.K	168.34
U.S.A	968.88
GLOBAL AVERAGE	616.44

SOURCE: https://www.cable.co.uk/mobiles/worldwide-data-pricing/

Growth of Broadcasting Sector

Particulars	2004	2021
Cable TV Subscribers	45 millions	~100 millions
DTH Subscribers	~3 millions (2007)	68.52 millions
Number of private satellite TV channels	160	909
Number of private FM Radio Stations	21	386
Number of Community Radio stations	10	343
Total revenue of India TV industry (in Rupees)	12,870 crore	68,500 crore
Total Revenue of Private FM Radio broadcasters (in Rupees)	240 crore	941 crore

TRAI Major Recommendations in Telecom Sector

S.NO	Subject
1	Unified Licensing
2	Growth of Telecom Services in Rural Areas
3	Mobile Number Portability
4	Approach towards Green Telecom
5	Infrastructure Sharing

TRAI Major Recommendations in Broadcasting Sector

S. No	Subject
1.	**Licensing Issues Relating to Community Radio Stations**
2.	**Implementation of Digital Addressable Cable TV Systems in India**
3.	**Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies**
4.	**Sharing of Infrastructure in TV Broadcasting Distribution Sector**

TRAI Recent Important Recommendations in Telecom Sector

S.No	Subject
1	Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks.
2	Making ICT accessible for Persons with Disabilities
3	Promoting Local Telecom Equipment Manufacturing
4	Enabling Unbundling of Different Layers Through Differential Licensing.
5	Licensing Framework for Satellite based connectivity for low bit rate applications.
6	Roadmap to Promote Broadband Connectivity and Enhanced Broadband Speed

TRAI Recent Important Recommendations in Broadcasting Sector

S. No.	Subject
1.	**Issues related to Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in India**
2.	**Issues related to Digital Radio Broadcasting in India**
3.	**Interoperability of Set-Top Box**
4.	**Review of Television Audience Measurement and Rating System in India**

Regulations by TRAI

- **Tariff norms**

- **Standards of Quality of Service**

- **Mobile Number portability**

- **Interconnection related regulations**

Challenges

- ➢ Fast changing Technologies

- ➢ Digital divide

- ➢ Ease of doing Business

- ➢ Compliance Burden

Way Forward

- Encouraging R&D in India
- Promoting local manufacturing of telecom equipment
- Expanding the network
- Digital awareness
- Ease of doing Business
- Revisiting the compliance framework

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Thank You