



JSA Prism Regulatory (Communications)

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Consultation Paper on Issues Relating to Media Ownership

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (“**TRAI**”) has issued a consultation paper on the ‘*Issues Relating to Media Ownership*’ dated April 12, 2022 (“**Consultation Paper**”). The Consultation Paper has been issued pursuant to a reference from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting that sought review of the 2014 recommendations on Issues Relating to Media Ownership issued by TRAI. The review of the erstwhile 2014 recommendations has been sought in the light of the emerging changes in the media and entertainment industry, particularly with the advent of new digital technologies such as over-the-top platforms (OTT).

In the above background, the Consultation Paper seeks views of the stakeholders broadly on the following:

- The need for monitoring cross media ownership and control considering the unprecedented expansion that the media industry has undergone.
- Whether there should be a common mechanism to monitor ownership of print, television, radio, or other internet-based news media or whether there should be a self-regulatory mechanism by the industry.
- The need for a regulatory agency specifically to monitor and regulate takeovers, acquisitions of media companies, especially the news media companies, in addition to the existing agencies like the Competition Commission of India and Securities Exchange Board of India.

The stakeholders are requested to provide their comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper by May 10, 2022, and counter comments, if any, may be submitted by May 24, 2022.

For more details, please contact km@jsalaw.com



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