

The logo for Corpbiz, featuring a stylized 'C' with a yellow and blue gradient, followed by the word 'orpbiz' in a dark grey sans-serif font. The logo is centered within a white circular background.

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The DoT Plans to Issue a Revised Draft of the Telecommunication Bill



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is likely to introduce a revised version of the Telecommunication Bill within a month's duration. The revised bill is expected to address the concerns which are brought up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in regard to regulation of the content for "over the top" (OTT) applications and broadcasting services. Initially, the first draft of the Telecommunication Bill was issued by the DoT on 22nd September 2022.

The revised version is expected to clear up doubts in regard to the applications that are to be overseen by the DoT, along with clarifying the objective of regulation over communication apps which provide the same services as telecom operators. Broadcasting services, such as Community Radio Stations, DTH, Up-Linking and Down-Linking Television Channels, IPTV Services, and FM Radio broadcasting through Private Agencies, have been mentioned by entities require licences to be issued in accordance with Schedule 2 of the drafted bill. The I&B Ministry has communicated its feedback on the draft along with the issues in regard to the telecom department.

The revised bill is to also define the regulation over the aspect of broadcasting services of those using a telecom network. Certain types of broadcasting services, such as DTH and TV Channels, are to be excluded. The DoT is constituting a framework in regard to regulation over OTT applications such as WhatsApp and Signal, even though the issues in regard to broadcasting and content OTTs have been resolved. The department is yet to clarify whether such apps require licencing or only require to be registered.



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