

National Security Directive on Telecommunication Sector

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In news

Union government announced the National Security Directive on Telecommunication Sector for secure networks

Important provisions

- In order to strengthen security of communications network, the Cabinet Committee on Security recently announced the **National Security Directive on Telecommunication Sector, which will mandate service providers to purchase equipment from trusted sources**
- **List of trusted sources & trusted products:** Under this directive, the government will declare a list of trusted sources and trusted products for installation in the country's telecom network.
 - The methodology to designate trusted products will be devised by the designated authority, the **National Cyber Security Coordinator.**
 - And the telecom service providers are required to connect new devices that are designated trusted products
- Accordingly, the list of the trusted source and product will be decided based on approval of a committee headed by the deputy national security advisor. The committee will be called the national security committee on telecom
- **National security committee on telecom:** The committee will consist of members from relevant departments, ministries and will also have two members from the industry and independent experts.
- **Negative list:** The government will also create a list of

- designated sources from whom no procurement can be done.
- The present directive does not envisage mandatory replacement of the existing equipment already inducted in the network of TSPs
 - The directive will also not affect annual maintenance contracts or updates to existing equipment already inducted in the network as on date of effect of the directive.
 - The directive has provisions to qualify telecom gears made by domestic players in the trusted category.
 - Those that meet the criteria of the Department of Telecommunications' preferential market access (PMA) scheme will be certified as India trusted sources.
 - The National Security Committee on Telecom will take measures to increase use of equipment from such Indian trusted sources
 - The DoT will suitably notify guidelines and ensure monitoring of compliance by telecom service providers of the directive.
 - The Department of Telecom will make appropriate modifications in the licence conditions for the implementation of the provisions of the directive.
 - The policy will come in to operation after 180 days from the date of approval