TRAI is getting its act together and trying to set right some of the prevailing anomalies in the broadcast and telecom sector. Recently demonstrated by its action on issuing a consultation paper which deals with the issue of regulating converged digital technologies with a specific focus on enabling convergence of carriage of broadcasting and telecommunication services.

Technological convergence brings with it peculiar issues of policy, regulation, data privacy, and data security, hence it is important that policy and regulations evolve on a continuous basis to keep pace with the developments.

The paper is notable as it examines challenges posed by converging technologies and explores changes needed in legal, administrative, and licensing frameworks to deal with them, as per TRAI. The proposal is important because it can cause significant disruption to internet businesses.

The other welcome step is in the case of FM broadcasting.

Last May, the ministry of information and broadcasting had sought recommendations of the authority, on issues including removal of the linkage to non-refundable one-time entry fee (NOTEF) in the formula for annual fee as prescribed in the FM Ph-III Policy Guidelines of 2011. It had also requested the authority for recommendations on extension of the existing FM license period of 15 years by three years.

TRAI had held a meeting with representatives of Association of Radio Operators for India (AROI) last August. Representatives of AROI, had then raised issues such as permitting private FM Radio channels to broadcast independent news bulletins and the availability of FM radio receivers in mobile handsets.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) granted interim relief to Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEE) on February 24 and stayed the order directing the initiation of insolvency proceedings against the media and entertainment firm.

The appellate tribunal further issued notice to IndusInd Bank on plea by Zee managing director Punit Goenka and said it will hear the case again on March 29.

The development comes at a time when ZEE is at advanced stages of merging with Cable Max Entertainment (Sony) in one of the biggest deals in the media and entertainment sector. It remains to be seen if the merger of Zee – Sony gets delayed due to this development.

The All India Digital Cable Federation (AIDCF) and broadcasters have finally reached an agreement over the New Tariff Order (NTO) 3.0, with the cable operators agreeing to sign the fresh Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO). The case in the Kerala High Court will, however continue. The agreement has come after AIDCF members, who moved the court to challenge NTO 3.0, failed to get an interim relief.