



5G Trails

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/5g-trails

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued guidelines for **5G trials** across all available spectrum bands and is likely to allocate up to 400 MHz of radio waves for the trials.

Guidelines

- It provides for a **uniform fee of Rs 5,000** for the trial licence.
- The period for trial licence may be **between 3 months to 2 years** depending on the purpose.
 - Indian entities involved in research and development (R&D), manufacturing, telecom operators and involved academia can be issued licence for a period of up to 2 years.
- The DoT is obliged to grant permit for the trails between 4 to 8 weeks. In case of no response by DoT within the said period, the applicant can send notice for trials. Again if the applicant does not receive any reply within 2 weeks, it will be deemed as approval. .

Concerns

- According to the Global rating agency Fitch, the **expensive spectrum** and **limited business case** of **5G** in the short to medium term might discourage some of the telcos like Airtel and Vodafone Idea to participate in the spectrum auctions.
- 5G may have only **limited commercial viability in the short term**, as 4G penetration is still low in India.
 - There is **little appealing content or applications** which cannot be addressed by 4G speeds.
- Indian telcos **lack extensive intra-city fibre infrastructure**, which is responsible for poor internet experience relative to other markets and is also critical in order to provide a seamless **5G experience**.

The government needs to be cautious and must go for comprehensive studies before the commercial rollout of 5G technology to ensure people's safety.

Source: Business Standard