

Department of Telecom moves Supreme Court against TDSAT verdict on 3G roaming

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NEW DELHI: [Department of Telecom](#) has moved the [Supreme Court](#) challenging tribunal TDSAT's judgement that allowed Airtel, Idea and [Vodafone](#) to offer 3G services under a roaming arrangement in areas where not all of them own 3G spectrum.

"Legal opinion has favoured challenging [TDSAT](#) judgement dated April 29 on 3G intra-circle roaming. DoT has sent petition to Supreme Court registry around a week ago for appeal against the judgement," an official source told PTI.

Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal had overturned a government ban on offering [3G mobile services](#) beyond their licensed zones through roaming pacts, saying that it was in national interest to allow better utilisation of scarce radio frequency.

The judgement had brought relief to the three operators - Airtel, Vodafone and [Idea Cellular](#) - who faced a penalty of Rs 1,200 crore for entering into pacts with each other to offer 3G services in regions where they did not win spectrum in the 2010 auction.

[Airtel](#) had won 3G spectrum in 13 out of 22 telecom service areas for Rs 12,295.46; Vodafone in 9 for Rs 11,617.86 and Idea Cellular in 11 circles for Rs 5,768.59 crore.

DoT issued notices to Airtel, Vodafone and Idea on December 23, 2011 asking them to stop [3G ICR](#) within 24 hours and report compliance but the order was challenged by them.

[Tata Teleservices](#) and [Aircel](#) too had signed 3G ICR but immediately called off their agreement after DoT issued notice to them.

Following the TDSAT judgement, the Airtel, Vodafone and Idea have extended service under their 3G ICR at pan-India level except Odisha.

Reliance Communications also entered in similar agreement with Tata Teleservices to provide 3G services in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and UP-East telecom Circles.



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