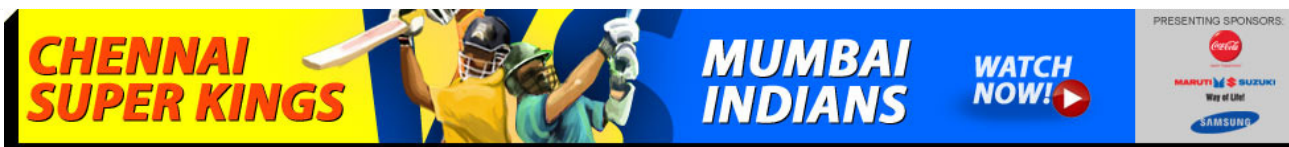


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Chandrasekhar panel to unveil roadmap for grand alliance of telecom PSUs

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KOLKATA: A high-powered panel led by telecoms secretary R Chandrasekhar is about to unveil a roadmap for establishing a master alliance between service providers [BSNL](#) and [MTNL](#), research body C-DoT, gear maker [ITI](#) and [Telecommunication Consultants of India](#) Ltd (TCIL) to unlock operational synergies across these telecom PSUs.

The panel will define the role of each telecom [PSU](#) member in the proposed alliance, iron out potential conflicts of interest and formulate an asset sharing and product procurement model to optimise central sector resources.

The objective is to create a telecoms ecosystem at the PSU level, where C-DoT will handle product development, ITI will be systems integrator and handle production of telecom gear, which, in turn, will be bought by BSNL and MTNL. The Chandrasekhar panel will be assisted by another internal departmental committee, comprising senior executives of member PSUs, to formulate norms for the smooth functioning of the grand alliance.

"The panel will monitor implementation of various initiatives to be undertaken by each alliance member in a time-bound manner. It will address issues relating to role clarity, constraints and potential conflict zones triggered by the formation of such an alliance of telecom PSUs," says a telecom department note reviewed by ET.

The move comes at a time when the communications ministry is at odds with an earlier Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) proposal of merging three loss-making state-run entities, ITI, [MTNL](#) and BSNL. Individual strengths of each member PSU will be tapped and the proposed alliance will weigh the pros and cons of evolving a preferential system for procurement of products and services.

The Telecom Commission, the apex policy-making wing in the [Department of Telecom](#) (DoT), has endorsed the need to explore synergies between loss-making state-run telecom units to form a strong organisation to withstand competition from private sector rivals. ends

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