

DOT pushes Internet Service Providers to move to Indian Standard Time

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In a move towards “One Nation, One Time”, the Ministry of Telecommunications has written to Internet Service Providers (ISPs), encouraging them to adopt Indian Standard Time (IST).

The DOT letter references the Draft Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules floated by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

The letter proceeds to “advise” and “sensitise” ISPs to the draft rules and recommends that they take necessary pre-emptive actions to ensure preparedness.

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The Department of Consumer Affairs has introduced the Draft Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, which are currently under consultation and yet to be officially notified.

Under the draft rules, the department is pushing for a legal mandate requiring all entities to adopt IST (UTC +5:30).

At present, telecom and internet service providers are not obliged by law to use IST. The updated regulations would introduce penalties for non-compliance.

The government argues that the adoption of IST will help address national and cybersecurity challenges, enable more accurate regulatory reporting and facilitate the efficient management of critical infrastructure such as railways.