

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has formed a new inter-ministerial panel on 5G comprising officials from the prime minister's office (PMO), home ministry, ministry of external affairs, department of IT, department of science and technology, intelligence bureau and the national security council.

The move comes at a time when the centre is deliberating on the participation of China-based firm Huawei in 5G trials.

This is the second time that a panel on 5G has been formed by the DoT after an earlier committee headed by principal scientific adviser (PSA) K. Vijay Raghavan had recently submitted its report.

In its report, the PSA-headed committee had not recommended banning of China-based firms in 5G trials, but its mandate was limited to trials. As per industry sources, the formation of a new panel was necessary as the issue of 5G required broader consultations on all aspects and not just regarding Huawei.

Following the formation of the panel, even routine decisions on 5G have been put on hold as they would require approval from the new panel.

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