

## **GOI Constitutes Committee for Formulating a Framework on the Repairability Index in Mobile and Electronics Sector**

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA), Government of India, has entrusted a committee of experts with the crucial task of recommending a robust framework for the Repairability Index. This initiative, aimed at empowering consumers and promoting sustainable practices within the tech industry, underscores the significant role of the committee in shaping the future of consumer rights and sustainability.

In a significant step towards promoting consumer rights and sustainability, the National Workshop on the Right to Repair in the Mobile and Electronics Sector, held on August 29, 2024, was a testament to the collective efforts of industry stakeholders. It brought together diverse voices to establish a consensus on the framework for the Repairability Index, fostering longevity in product design, and democratizing access to repair information and spare parts.

Given the rapid growth and short lifespan of mobile and electronics, the need for the Repairability Index was widely acknowledged during the workshop. This index, by providing consumers with essential information about product repairability and seamless access to spare parts, will empower them to make informed purchasing decisions, thereby enhancing their consumer experience.

The Repairability Index will be a consumer-focused indexing that enables consumers to make a product-related decision based on its repairability. Further, it can standardize how repairability is assessed, making it easier for consumers to compare products based on repairability indexing. Thus,

it will create an informed choice ecosystem across mobile and electronic products.

By standardizing the assessment of repairability, the index will create an ecosystem where consumers can easily compare products and choose options that align with the ethos of mindful product consumption and sustainability. Thus, enabling repair would not only ensure the availability of affordable repair options but will also improve consumer satisfaction by bridging the information gaps for repairing products.

**Key components of the Repair Ecosystem include:**

1. Comprehensive Repair Information: Access to repair manuals/DIYs, diagnostics, and necessary tools and parts.
2. Accessible Spare Parts: Easily identifiable and timely delivery of spare parts.
3. Affordable Tools: Inexpensive, widely available, and safe tools for consumers.
4. Modular Design: Key components designed for independent access and modularity.
5. Economic Feasibility: Ensuring that the cost of repair parts and labor is affordable for consumers.

Taking into account the above necessities, the committee is expected to recommend an enabling framework for Policies/Rules/Guidelines that support repairability and integrate the repairability index with the extant regulatory provisions in the mobile and electronics sector to enhance consumer experiences in reusing the mobile and electronics products they own.

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