

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched a portal that would allow users to detect their lost or stolen mobile phones. The project has been launched on a pilot basis in Maharashtra and will later be implemented across the country.

Each mobile phone has a 15 digit unique indemnification number International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number, which can be identified when a user makes a call. IMEI cannot be changed by a layman even by changing the SIM card as it is allocated by global industry body GSMA and bodies authorised by it.

In case of lost/theft user can lodge an fir and DoT which then will block the reported device across the network preventing the reuse of the phone. In case a person tries to use the same device, the reuse will be reported by the telecom service provider.

Leading telcos including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Reliance Jio, Airtel and Vodafone Idea will be helping the DoT to track the phone.

The DoT has been working on the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR), a database of IMEIs, since 2017.

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