



# **Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) requested to refer issues on Telecom Towers to TERM Cell of DOT**

**India has lowest emissions from towers and industry to work with  
PMCTo address all public issues related to tower and its emissions**

**Pune, July 22, 2013:** Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has been requested to refer all issues with regard to telecom towers in the city to the TERM cell of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

In a meeting with the Pune Municipal Commissioner Mr. Mahesh Pathak, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), Tower and Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA) and Association of Unified Service Providers of India (AUSPI) requested to withdraw its proposed action against telecom towers in the city of Pune and refer all complaints to the TERM cell for examination. The meeting between the Commissioner and the Industry bodies was to discuss the issues pertaining to proposed removal of telecom towers by the PMC and installation of aerial OFC (Optical Fiber cable).

The industry associations pointed out that the TERM cell is the nodal agency to address the issues concerning the telecom tower and its emission levels. Industry bodies told the Commissioner that all the sites are installed and functioning under the guidelines issued by the DoT and none of the towers can be classified as illegal.

The industry representatives apprised the Commissioner that India had one of the lowest emission levels from the mobile towers with the present norm of 0.45 watt per meter square, which is one tenth of the widely accepted international norm formulated by ICNIRP and recognized by the WHO. The emission norms have been determined keeping in mind all the possible groups that may be affected and has enough safety margins to provide safeguard to everyone – from pregnant women, to children, senior citizens, etc. These emission levels in India were reduced to the present norm in 2012, based on the suggestions of an inter-ministerial committee constituted by the Government of India.



With one of the lowest emission levels from the towers there was no need to prescribe exclusions of Schools and Hospitals for tower installation, the Industry representatives told the Commissioner.

Industry also welcomed the excellent initiative regarding the appointment of Third Party agency by PMC to monitor and coordinate the process of regularization and act as single window agency for all clearances. This is the first instance of a Municipality taking such an initiative in India. Industry will seek the support of local TERMS cells to scrutinise the customer grievances on emission issues and work along with PMC to address the citizens' concerns.

Commenting on the issue, **Mr. Rajan S Mathews, Director General COAI**, said: “We are fully committed to the sensitivities and concerns of our customers on tower emission issues. Recently, the High Court of Kerala has upheld the safety norms practiced by the industry and even gave police protection for towers. He further added that citizens of India now enjoy safety limits on emissions lower than citizens in over 90 % of the countries of the world, post the Government of India lowering the safety limits by 90% last September, for "abundant caution".

**Mr. Ashok Sud, Secretary General, AUSPI** said: “On the issue of health hazards from the emission of mobile phone towers/networks that several studies have been conducted in different countries, under the aegis of World Health Organization (WHO) so far and there is no conclusive scientific evidence of adverse health effects due to RF emission from mobile phone towers.”

**Mr. Umang Das, Director General – TAIPA** stated that, “ Industry would abide by the discussions and would work closely with PMC to put in all efforts to regularize the Tower sites which are pending with PMC for either non submission of required documents or documents being submitted but PMC keeping the files pending”.

PMC, after a long deliberations accepted the fact that mobile telephony is an essential lifeline to all and agreed to work with the industry to educate public and discuss the issues pertaining to regularization of Towers and aerial OFC (Optical Fiber cable) deployed by various telecom operators in the city.

In fact recognizing telecommunication as an essential service and its role in socio-economic development of the nation, a Departmental Committee of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communication & IT, Government of India (GOI) has recognized telecom infrastructure as lifeline installation and a critical infrastructure.



Further, Telecom services and Telecom towers have already been given infrastructure status by Government of India vide gazette notification. This status envisages active support on issues like financing and right of way, electricity connections and other support from State and Central government bodies.

### **About AUSPI:**

Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI), constituted in the year 1997 is the representative industry body of Unified Access Service Licensees providing CDMA & GSM Mobile Services, Fixed Line Services as well as Value Added Services throughout the length and breadth of the country. ([www.auspi.in](http://www.auspi.in))

### **About COAI:**

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society dedicated to the advancement of communication, particularly modern communication through Cellular Mobile Telephone Services. With a vision to establish and sustain a world-class cellular infrastructure and facilitate affordable mobile communication services in India, COAI's main objectives are to protect the common & collective interests of its members. (<http://www.coai.in/>).

### **About TAIPA:**

As a critical member of the wireless telecom ecosystem, the key players for Telecom Infrastructure providers have come together to form a representative industry body, Towers and Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA). All leading independent telecom infrastructure providers like BhartiInfratel, Viom Networks, Indus Towers, Reliance Infratel, ATC India Tower Corp., GTL Infrastructures, India Telecom Infra and Tower Vision are the founding members of the Society which visualizes itself to be the official voice for the Telecom Infrastructure industry. The Association intends to interact, discuss and deliberate with the Ministries, Policy Makers, Regulators, Financial institutions and Technical bodies for collection and dissemination of knowledge and information for promotion of healthy growth in telecom services. (<http://www.taipa.in/>)

### **For Media enquires**

**SahilRaina**  
**COAISrDirector,TAIPA**  
**M-09999402012**

**TR Dua**  
**M-09810150000**