



**COAI**

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# I-DIGEST

Connecting the World

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## LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

Director General, COAI

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### From DG's Desk

Telecommunication industry plays a vital role in nation's security as a wide spectrum of institutions depend on telecom to provide safety. Apart from this, telecommunication industry also acts as an economic booster, which makes telecommunication one of the most crucial infrastructures.

Moving in this direction of improving telecommunication infrastructure, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched an ambitious Gati Shakti, a multi-modal connectivity plan which is aimed to expedite the infrastructural project implementation, thereby accelerating economic growth. Gati Shakti will provide a big boost to India's telecom infrastructure. We welcome this thoughtful move and look forward to working towards aligning with this initiative.

With increased usage of mobile, lately there has been a public concern over possible health issues from EMF exposure from diverse EMF sources. In this regard, several studies have been conducted in different countries, under the aegis of WHO and based on an in-depth review of scientific literature, has concluded that "current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic field". The Government along with the industry is working towards spreading awareness amongst public and eliminating such myths.

Telecom industry will continue to improve, upgrade and adapt to provide the best services across with every stakeholder's valuable inputs and cooperation.



# COAI

## Latest Updates:



### **Comments on the Draft Aadhaar (Pricing of Aadhaar Authentication Services) Regulations, 2021**

COAI made a submission to DoT on October 06, 2021 on the subject stating that for telecom service providers, Aadhaar authentication services shall be charged @ Rs. 1 (inclusive of all applicable taxes) for each activation irrespective of counts of Aadhaar e-KYC transaction or Yes/No authentication transaction.

On October 14, 2021, UIDAI issued new pricing regulation as below:

- a) Each successful Aadhaar e-KYC transaction shall be charged @ Re. 1/- (including applicable taxes) for each successful Aadhaar e-KYC transaction
- b) Each successful Yes/No authentication transaction shall be charged @ Rs. 0.50 (including applicable taxes) from requesting entities
- c) Each failed, but chargeable Aadhaar e-KYC transaction or Yes/No authentication transaction shall be charged @ Rs. 0.50 (including applicable taxes) per such transaction from requesting entities

### **Simplification of SACFA clearance process for telecom towers**

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on October 12, 2021 on Office Memorandum on SACFA simplification dated 06.10.2021 defining procedure for grant of SACFA clearances in time bound manner through self-declaration / automated time bound approvals based on Cabinet Decision dated 15.09.2021.

COAI requested DoT for removal of Clause Number (v) of O.M. and deletion of phrase "automated time bound approvals" from Para 1 of O.M under reference. COAI requested for deemed approval confirmation for all earlier filed and pending SACFA applications, if not objected/rejected by SACFA members so far.

### **Launch of MTCTE Phase III & Phase IV**

COAI made submission to DoT on October 13, 2021 on the matter. COAI made following recommendations regarding government notification on launch of Phase 3 & 4.

- a) ILAC labs 'and local labs test reports should be kept up to a period of at least 5 years before the application date instead of 2 years
- b) Extend the timeline for mandatory certificate requirement by at least 18 months from the date of notification and adopt a tiered approach
- c) Allow the ILAC labs' reports for the first 2 years after the certification becomes mandatory to ease burden on industry as well as on TEC as more than 36 product types are covered in phase 4 which translates to thousands of equipment's and hence thousands of applications.
- d) Accept earlier versions of standards for products already available in the market before the ER of that product becomes effective.
- e) Maintain one Registration number across Provisional, Regular, and Renewals for a particular product.
- f) Introduce a confidentiality option in the application process to enable OEMs to select a Publication date of the certificate in the TEC-MTCTE portal.
- g) Enlist those products in future phases whose ERs are yet to be uploaded on the portal and share the revised BOM or guide us on how Split unit type models can be defined in BOM.
- h) Requested TEC to allow only TEC logo to be displayed on the body of the product without the additional text cited above. However, Logo plus additional information can be displayed on the packaging box.

### **Draft 5G Trials Test Schedule and Test Procedure**

COAI made a submission to DoT on October 19, 2021 in reference to the Draft 5G trial test schedule and test procedure (TSTP) circulated by TEC vide email dated October 01, 2021.

COAI requested TEC/DoT to not to issue any TSTP for the 5G trial licenses and allow the operators to submit outcome report as per scenarios tested by them.

### **Adoption of Standards for 5G in India**

COAI made a submission to Secretary, DoT on October 20, 2021. COAI submitted that the Government must continue with its technology neutral approach adopted till date. However, efforts may be made for global harmonization of 5Gi standards by making it part of 3GPP, so as to ensure early adoption by operators without any policy intervention and all stakeholders can reap the benefits of economies of scale.

### **Audit of EMF self-certificates**

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on October 20, 2021 on the matter as LSAs are supposed to audit the latest Self Certificate of EMF submission by the TSPs as per DoT guidelines, however, some LSAs are picking up old certificates for audit purpose. Vide this letter, COAI requested DoT to issue a clarification to LSAs to audit only latest certificates.

### **Digital Storage of CAFs**

COAI made a submission to DoT on October 27, 2021 stating that as per our understanding the intent of the Cabinet decision on Digitization of ALL CAFs and also given the Digital India ambitions of the Government, the decision on Digitization of CAFs is applicable for all categories of customers, wherein a CAF is required for on-boarding a customer, which includes fixed line, broadband, enterprise, etc. For all these categories also, a paper CAF is required and saved in warehouses by the service providers. Hence, going forward, the service providers will do away with physical copies of CAFs and will save only digital CAFs as envisaged in the guidelines issued by DoT dated 11.10.2021

### **Rationalisation of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)**

Post approval of telecom reforms by Cabinet on 15th Sept 2021, COAI has submitted a letter to DoT on 01st Oct 2021 requesting DoT to issue amendment in UASL/Unified License conditions for determination of Gross Revenue and AGR and also amend all SUC orders to specify that AGR for levying SUC shall include income from respective licensed telecom services which use access spectrum. On 18th Oct 2021, DoT called a meeting on this issue in which COAI and its members gave a presentation to DoT and subsequently made submissions to DoT on the subject.

### **Challenges faced by TSPs/ISPs regarding blocking of websites**

Post Sept 17th 2021 meeting with DoT on the issue of challenges faced by TSPs/ISPs regarding blocking of websites, COAI has submitted the Minutes of Meeting (MoM) to DoT on Oct 14th 2021 along with the below mentioned requests:

- a) Arrange the demo of the portal at an early date to our members TSPs/ISPs which is being developed by the DoT for smoothening the process and resolving the issues faced by TSPs/ISPs in blocking of the websites.
- b) Involve the industry stakeholders in the development stages of the said portal to ensure better functioning of the portal and avoid changes during/post launch.
- c) DoT had conducted the online demo of the DoT portal regarding workflow management of Blocking /Un-blocking of URLs/Websites to TSPs/ISPs on Oct 28th 2021.

### **COAI engaged Ministry of Defence**

Letter to DGDE, MoD was submitted as follow-up for a few critical amendments in the policy issued by MoD.

### **COAI supported DoT to organise LSA led EMF Advocacy Webinars**

COAI supported DoT to organize LSA led EMF Advocacy webinars across 15 locations i.e., New Delhi, Mumbai, Sikkim, West Bengal, Kerala, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, etc. COAI via Online media, Offline media, social media and event attendance engaged over 10,000 representatives of Municipalities, RWAs, IT Department, Police officials, General Public, etc.

### **COAI Submission to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra**

Letter was submitted on Oct 05th 21 to request highlighting key RoW related issues in the state for e.g., the high restoration charges, RoW related charges, implementation of Single window portal etc.

### **COAI Submitted letter to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh on Oct 11th 21**

COAI submitted letter to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh on Oct 11th 21 to request for Amendments in the RoW Guidelines of Andhra Pradesh (AP).

### **COAI submission done to Chief Secretary Govt. of Karnataka on Oct 18th 21**

COAI submission done to Chief Secretary Govt. of Karnataka on Oct 18th 21 to request for Notification of Karnataka Right of Way (RoW) Policy and for an Industry meeting to discuss RoW Related Issues.

**COAI's submission done to Commissioner of North Delhi Municipal Corporation (North DMC) on Oct 20th 21**

COAI's submission done to Commissioner of North DMC on Oct 20th 21 to withdraw their order dated 20.09.2021 that put restrictions on installation of mobile towers at already identified CoW sites.

**COAI submission done to Hon'ble Chief Secretary of Sikkim on Oct 22nd 21**

COAI submission done to Chief Secretary, Sikkim on Oct 22nd 2021 for support required to rationalize EB charges and for the priority Grid supply on Utility/Industrial/Favorable tariffs for providing Mobile & Broadband services to make Sikkim Digitally advanced

**COAI's submission done to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Rajasthan on Oct 22nd 21**

COAI's submission done to Chief Secretary Govt. of Rajasthan on Oct 22nd 21 to rationalise High Manhole charges.

**COAI submission done to Hon'ble Chief Secretary of West Bengal on Oct 28th 21**

COAI submission done to Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal on Oct 28th 21 to seek his support on the implementation related issues w.r.t West Bengal RoW Policy.

**COAI submission done to Hon'ble Chief Secretaries of States on Oct 28th 21**

COAI submission done to Chief Secretaries of States on Oct 28th 2021 to issue necessary Directions to appropriate Authorities in the State for Safeguard of the Digital Infrastructure

**Regulations for Vessel Operation in India - Clarification(s) regarding activities relating to cable repair/installation operations carried out in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**

1. In March 2021, Custom authorities had impounded the cable repairing vessel for almost 40 days without any show cause notice operating within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

2. Customs Department is taking the view that bringing of goods into the Indian Customs Waters qualifies as an import into India. Due to this development, the foreign vessel owners are now requiring the Indian telecom service providers to obtain all the necessary permissions from the Indian Authorities and fulfill all the vessel importation/ exportation formalities including payment of applicable customs duty, IGST, furnishing of the bond, etc. This will result into operational and financial difficulties to our members.

3. In this regard, post submission of detailed representation to concerned officers in the Ministry of Finance as well as in DoT, recently on 22nd October we had meeting with Mr. Gaurav Masaldan, Joint Secretary Customs, Ministry of Finance to have detailed discussion on this issue and have requested for the clarification.



# COAI

## News Wires:

### **DoT amends telecom license norms to relax penal provisions**

The DoT has amended licence norms to rationalise the interest rate for delayed payment of licence fee, a move that is expected to ease financial burden on the telecom sector and promote ease of doing business. [Read more](#)



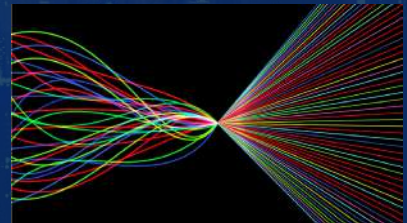
### **DoT allows telcos to digitise CAFs**

Telecom service providers (TSPs) are permitted to store the digitally scanned coloured copies of the paper-based CAF documents. Digitally scanned copies of the CAF documents must be maintained for all the active customers," the Department of Telecom guidelines for digitisation of paper CAFs said. [Read more](#)



### **Spectrum reforms, future allocation norms will ease burden on telcos: COAI**

COAI said spectrum reforms notified by government including removal of financial bank guarantee requirements, and scrapping of SUC for future auctions would ease financial burden on operators. [Read more](#)



### **Gati Shakti to boost India's infrastructure and much more**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the ambitious Gati Shakti project, which is a multi-modal connectivity plan aimed at expediting infrastructural project implementation. The goal is to accelerate economic growth. [Read more](#)



### **Telecom experts debunk myths on baleful effects of EMF signals**

Telecom experts on Wednesday presented scientific evidences and rejected theories that claim that electromagnetic field (EMF) signals emanated by mobile network towers are detrimental to health. [Read more](#)



### **COAI welcomes the Government of Rajasthan and the Urban Development & Housing Department, Rajasthan for their decision on the installation of mobile towers**

COAI, the representative body for the Indian telecommunications industry, lauded the decision taken by the Urban Development & Housing Department, Rajasthan in regards to mobile tower installation. As per the orders issued by the Urban Development Department, Rajasthan, in the future, if a developer develops a township or colony on less than one hectare of land, then it is necessary to reserve land for the mobile tower. [Read more](#)



# COAI Events

## Role of Telecom in Propelling India as Digital Frontrunner

COAI organized a round table conference talking about how the industry is planning to map and catalyze digital transformation. The round table conference commenced with a welcome address by Lt. Gen. Dr. SP Kochhar, DG, COAI, followed by Chief guest, Shri K. Rajaraman, Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC discussing on a collective goal of becoming a USD 1 trillion digital economy.



## EMF Awareness Workshop by Department of Telecommunications

EMF Awareness workshops has been organized by DoT at various locations like West Bengal, Odisha, Delhi, Maharashtra, etc to dispel myths around Electromagnetic Frequency (EMF) radiation and address unfounded fears of citizens by presenting credible scientific evidence. An expert panel comprising of senior officers from telecom department along with a doctor addressed the growing concern among consumers related to EMF radiation. They also highlighted the myths and misinformation around the health hazards connect with it.





# COAI Events

## GSMA-COAI Mobile360 event: Enterprise opportunities from India and SE Asia

COAI jointly with GSMA organized an event on enterprise opportunities in India and SE Asia as a part of APAC conference series bringing together policy makers, industry and stakeholders from across the region. This year's event, "Unleashing the Value of Digital" had three days of in-depth key themed events "Digital Transformation", "Digital Society" and "Digital Enterprise" on the 5th, 12th and 13th October followed by the conference on 19-21 October.



## Seminar on Telecom Ecosystem Challenges and Opportunities

Two days National Seminar on "Telecom Ecosystem Challenges & Opportunities" was arranged by the NICF, Ministry of Communications, Ghitorni. Mr. Gopal Mittal, Associate DG, F&C attended and participated in the same as panellist and give presentation on key issues related to direct and indirect taxation pertaining to telecom sector.



## Awareness Webinar on the 'Next Steps to Accelerated Digital-Empowered Industrial Automation'

COAI jointly with 5GIF and 5G-ACIA organized a webinar on 26th October 2021 to discuss the tangible steps to accelerated Digital-Empowered Industrial Automation. The webinar commenced with a welcome address by Lt. Gen. Dr. SP Kochhar, DG, COAI, followed by a presentation by Dr. Andreas Mueller (5G-ACIA General Chair) and Dr. Afif Osseiran (5G-ACIA General Vice-Chair). A presentation on Digital Twin and the Asset Administration Shell was given by Mr. Josef Eichinger, Board Member 5G-ACIA followed by a presentation by Dr. Nagahanumaiah, Director, Central Manufacturing Technology Institute on Smart Manufacturing in addressing 4P challenges for optimized productivity in the industry.





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