

COAI welcomes the notification of RoW Policy on Urban Municipal Corporation by the Government of Karnataka

Bengaluru, 13th January 2022: COAI, the representative body for the Indian telecommunications industry, lauded the notification of RoW Policy on Urban Municipal Corporation by the Government of Karnataka. These bye-laws are applicable to all City areas, Municipal Councils, Town Municipal Councils, Town Panchayats and areas under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and includes Telecom Towers and OFC (Aerial & Underground).

As per the policy, One-time fee to meet administrative expenses for the installation of Telecom Tower & Aerial OFC deployment is INR 10,000/- per Application (Tower & Aerial OFC), whereas for the deployment of Optical fiber it is INR 1,000/- per KM OFC (underground) and for the deployment of Cell on Wheel (CoW) (Micro Site/Small Cell, IBS) is INR 2,000/- per application. The policy encourages the deployment of Tower, Underground OFC, Aerial OFC, CoW, Micro Site, Small Cell, IBS, etc. that are essential to improve the digital connectivity across Urban Municipal Corporation and other areas of Karnataka. The policy also supports the regularisation of the existing Telecom Infrastructure that will contribute towards the GDP growth of the state.

This RoW policy will help to meet the National Broadband Mission, increase the Broadband penetration, provide internet & broadband services to the citizens, improve the connectivity & capacity. Hence, this will improve the quality of the mobile services, and develop a robust Telecom/Digital Infrastructure in the State.

The telecom industry has emerged as a saviour for many during the pandemic. With telecom reforms, this announcement will become the base for digital connectivity in the state and will go a long way in building a robust infrastructure. Today, as the country creates pathways for 5G and the following digital revolution, it is important to understand that seamless connectivity is the roadmap to our vision of 'Digital India.'

"We thank the State Government of Karnataka for notifying RoW Policy on Urban Municipal Corporation. Additionally, we urge the state government to expedite implementation of the same at all levels. This will help in the installation of mobile towers and deployment of OFC across the State. It will facilitate the speedy roll-out of telecom infrastructure while boosting the direct and indirect jobs associated with the roll-out of telecom infrastructure across the State. We will be working closely with the Government of Karnataka to make Karnataka Digitally advanced and create a digitally connected ecosystem" - said Lt. Gen. Dr. SP Kochhar, Director General, COAI.

Karnataka has **approx 69 million** subscribers with a **tele-density of approx. 103%** including **44K telecom towers and approx. 1.5 Lakh KM cumulative optical fiber cable**. To make Karnataka Digitally advanced under the 'National Broadband Mission' and 'Gati Shakti', Karnataka will need to have approx. **90K telecom towers and four times** more telecom optical fiber cable by December 2024.