



COAI

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I-DIGEST

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information that matters*



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LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)
Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

In today's digital world, telecommunication has its importance in every sphere of life. Telecommunication has helped make the world a global village. With fast changing technologies, telecommunication is keeping pace to bring best services on table.

Moving in this direction, we are extremely excited to enter into this strategic partnership with GSMA. This partnership will allow us to have a regular and continuous policy discussions to advance mobile telecommunications contribution in India and raise the profile of the mobile network operators and the wider mobile ecosystem as an essential body for achieving the Digital India Vision, through various workshops, thought leadership seminars, conferences and meetings.

Telecom sector will continue to advance the modern communications through establishment of world class products & services making mobile communication services affordable for all.

As we are getting back to our pre covid normal, we hope that all of us take on the world as better & stronger versions of ourselves.



COAI

Latest Updates:



Accelerating Industry 4.0 & Enabling Next Generation Technologies & Services

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on February 03, 2022 on the subject wherein COAI submitted 5 solutions where it will not be feasible for TSPs to provide end-user list as the SIMs/connections are not used in conventional sense, have limited functionalities/uses and have no corresponding individual end users. COAI requested DoT not to insist on end-user list requirement and periodic verification for such solutions to facilitate the digital transformation of businesses and their offerings to consumers in the country through these solutions and also requested DoT, if they can issue necessary instructions/directions in this regard.

Industry Comments on "Adoption of TSDSI transposed standard for 3GPP Release-16 into national standards by TEC"

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on February 04, 2022 wherein COAI reiterated on the following aspects:

- a) 3GPP standards should be adopted as national standards. 3GPP Rel-16 has a well-developed ecosystem for the operators and consumers.
- b) TEC to work with industry to ensure that ERs and GRs based on 3GPP Rel-16 are in place for the timely roll out of 5G networks and devices in India.
- c) Government must continue with its technology neutral approach adopted till date.
- d) Operator trials on 5G are based on 3GPP Rel-15/16.

Feedback on Proposed Implementation of NavIC into the Devices Sold in India

COAI made a submission to DoT on February 16, 2022, on the matter. COAI requested DoT:

- a) To extend the implementation of NavIC to January 1st, 2025, instead of January 1st, 2023.
- b) To examine the possibility of switchover to L1 band from L5 band while implementing NavIC.
- c) Sought some clarifications regarding implementation of NavIC.

Instructions for re-verification of existing mobile connections identified by the DoT/Licensee/Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)

DoT examined the representation submitted by COAI and issued the instructions on February 10, 2022 on the subject wherein DoT provided extension on the applicability of the instructions dated 07.12.2021 till 11.04.2022

TRAI Consultation Paper on "Promoting Networking and Telecom Equipment Manufacturing in India"

TRAI issued consultation paper on the subject on February 11, 2022. COAI has requested TRAI to provide extension till April 08, 2022 to submit the comments on the paper.

Audit of CAFs generated through Self-KYC and e-KYC based process by LSAs

DoT issued instructions on February 17, 2022 on the subject wherein DoT requested LSAs to follow the e-KYC and self-KYC instructions dated September 21, 2021 and subsequent related circulars to carry out audit of CAFs generated through e-KYC and self-KYC process.

Disruption in e-KYC services for Subscriber Verification/Acquisition

COAI submitted a letter to UIDAI and DoT on the subject on February 28, 2022. COAI requested UIDAI to examine the matter and fix the root cause leading to such frequent outages. COAI requested UIDAI to resolve the issue at the earliest to enable smooth functioning of UIDAI services in the future as interruption in these services directly impacts the activation process.

TRAI OHD on "Auction of Spectrum in frequency bands identified for IMT/5G"

TRAI has conducted Open House Discussion on 8th Feb 2022. In this, we suggest that there is a need for fresh outlook for the valuation of the spectrum in the forthcoming auction. The spectrum valuation needs to be aligned with the international benchmarks, and in view of low level of ARPU/RoCE in the country, should be suitably reduced across various bands to ensure faster deployment of affordable 5G services in the country. The Reserve Price should be kept low and fixed at 50% of the valuation of spectrum to enable competitive bidding and market driven price discovery.

TRAI consultation paper on Regulatory Framework for Promoting Data Economy Through Establishment of Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks, and Interconnect Exchanges in India:

TRAI has issued this consultation paper on 16th Dec 2021. Due date for submission of inputs was 10th Feb 2022 and for counter comment was 24th Feb 2022. COAI has submitted the response to TRAI on 11th Jan 2022.

TRAI consultation paper on Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector

TRAI has issued this consultation paper on 8th Dec 2021. Due date for submission of inputs was 09th Feb 2022 and for counter comment was 23rd Feb 2022. COAI has submitted the response to TRAI on 11th Jan 2022.

Implication of proposed Merger of BBNL-BSNL on USOF Projects

COAI has submitted a letter to DoT on 11th Feb 2022 requesting DOT and USOF to kindly provide enough safeguards for all the other TSPs in case it is decided to merge BBNL and BSNL.

Inputs to the Committee Examining Reduction in Compliances under DGT

DoT has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of DG Telecom to propose the suggestions for reforms which will reduce the compliance burden of the licensees. In this regard, DoT had sought inputs from COAI. COAI has submitted the inputs to DoT on 21st Feb 2022.

Inputs for formulation of recommendations on IoT/M2M

DoT has tasked NTIPRIT to give its recommendations to facilitate and promote IoT/M2M services in India. COAI has submitted the inputs to NTIPRIT on 18th Feb 2022.

Pilots for use of Street Furniture for deployment of Small Cell and Aerial Fiber

TRAI had conducted a meeting on 25th Jan 2022 on the issue of finalizing pilots for use of Street Furniture for deployment of Small Cell and Aerial Fiber at four different locations in India. On 2nd Feb 2022, COAI has submitted the nominations details of its members companies to TRAI who will be the SPOC of these pilots. TRAI had conducted another meeting on 21st Feb with industry stakeholders and asked to provide the details of IP-1, Lead

TSPs and inputs on Scope of Work regarding these pilots. COAI has submitted the required details to TRAI on 24th Feb and 25th Feb 2022.

Meeting held with Principal Secretary (UD-2), Maharashtra

In the 3rd SBC meeting a Govt. Committee was constituted for rationalization of Restoration Charge, Access Charge and Regularization of Towers. A meeting was held with Principal Secretary (UD-2) on 17.02.22 in which it was discussed to rationalise the high Restoration Charges, withdraw the Access Charges and regularise the Towers with the payment of not more than current admin Charge of Rs.10,000 per application.

Rajasthan

Consequently, to efforts by COAI, the Govt. of Rajasthan via its order dated 01.02.22 reduced the charges for laying of Aerial OFC to INR 1,000/- per pole annually for the Street Lights and for manhole to INR 2,000/-per manhole/chamber at District Headquarters & INR 1,000/-per manhole/chamber in other towns.

Committee formed for Aerial OFC deployment by PWD, Delhi

Delhi's MCDs & LSA were engaged for lowering of rates, removal of Way leave charges, provision for Aerial OFC on Street furniture, etc. On COAI's request during Delhi's 2nd SBC meeting, PWD via its order dated 15.02.22 has formed a committee to work on deployment of Aerial OFC on Street Furniture.

Letter to CS, Andhra Pradesh (A.P) for rationalization of charges

Submitted letter to CS, A.P on 11.10.21 requesting for Amendments in the RoW Guidelines of AP & rationalization of charges. A reminder letter to Chief Secretary GoAP was submitted on 08.02.22.

Committee formed & pricing defined for or installation of new technology small cells by Govt. of Punjab

COAI in his letter written to CS, Punjab dated 04.01.22 had requested an amendment in the existing State Policy with clear guidelines and very low charges to lay Aerial Fiber on own poles and Electricity Board (EB) poles. Department of Industries, Government of Punjab has now proposed to levy INR 100 per pole/site annually for Urban areas and INR 50 per pole/site annually for Rural areas for installation of new technology small cells.

Basis COAI's meeting with DIC - Punjab on 22.02.2022, a task force has been constituted which will work towards formation/ amendment of guidelines to enable use of street furniture and poles, etc. to enable 5G rollout. COAI is also members of the task force.

Letter to CS, Haryana for EB/LT Poles and other Utility Structures for aerial fibre

Industry's issue taken up with CS, Haryana to allow use of EB/LT Poles and other Utility Structures for aerial fibre. Reminder letter to CS, Haryana has been submitted on 08.02.22.

Meeting held with Power Department Sikkim for Aerial OFC

Submission done to CS, Sikkim on 10.12.21 to rationalise OFC laying charges & EB Pole charges. On COAI's request, Sikkim (WB LSA) wrote to IT Depart, Sikkim to make necessary amendments in the Sikkim policy accordingly.

On 24.02.2022 Sikkim LSA had a meeting with the Secretary, Power Dept., Govt. of Sikkim in his chamber. Secretary, IT Dept., Director Sikkim, DoT and other senior officers from State Govt. have participated in the meeting. LSA officials has apprised the Secretary, Power Dept. about the D.O. letter from the Secretary (Telecom), DoT regarding rationalization of charges and giving priority for electricity connections for telecom infrastructures. The Power Secretary has assured his full support.

Rationalisation of OFC Charges in Assam

A submission was done to CS, Assam on 18.02.22 to rationalise OFC laying charges.

Demonstration of Manipur RoW portal

A demonstration of Manipur RoW portal for the industry was organised on 01.02.22.

EMF Awareness Webinar by Karnataka LSA

Karnataka LSA, DoT led EMF Awareness Webinars was

coordinated on 24.02.2022. Approx. 60 people participated in this informative and interactive Webinar.

EMF Awareness Webinar by Nagpur Unit of Maharashtra LSA, DoT

EMF Awareness Webinars led by Nagpur Unit of Maharashtra LSA was coordinated on 25.02.2022. Approx. 50 people participated in this informative and interactive Webinar.

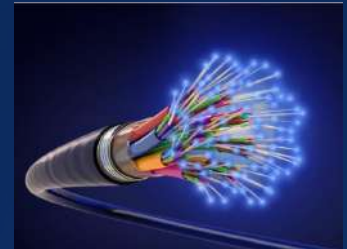
Clarification by Government of Himachal Pradesh regarding one-time charges

A submission was done by COAI for additional charges being levied by local municipalities across Himachal Pradesh. Further, COAI raised this issue in the SLCC meeting of Himachal Pradesh held on 03rd January 2022 with the IT department of Himachal Pradesh as well.

A clarification has been issued by the Department of Information Technology, Government of Himachal Pradesh on 21.02.2022 in regard to one-time charge of Rs.1000/ per KM will be taken by the Municipal Corporations across the State of H.P. for laying fiber. Most of the local Municipalities in H.P were charging high amount between Rs. 1500 per Km to 2700 per KM in various areas for Laying fibre.

COAI lauds Rajasthan govt. for reduced cost in laying OFC

COAI lauded the efforts of the Rajasthan Government to reduce the charges for laying of Aerial OFC and underground OFC. This will help in the speedy laying of aerial OFC and fast track 5G rollouts across the State leading to a digitally connected and more advanced Rajasthan. [Read more](#)



COAI applauds HP govt for clarified OFC laying charges

COAI, the representative body for the Indian telecommunications industry, applauds the clarification provided by the Himachal Pradesh Government regarding the charges for laying OFC. [Read more](#)



COAI seeks the support of the Maharashtra Government to avoid network outages across Pune

COAI, the leading industry body of telecom operators of India, has sought the support of the Maharashtra Government to avoid network outages across Pune. [Read more](#)



Tamil Nadu becomes 26th state to align with Centre's telecom RoW rules

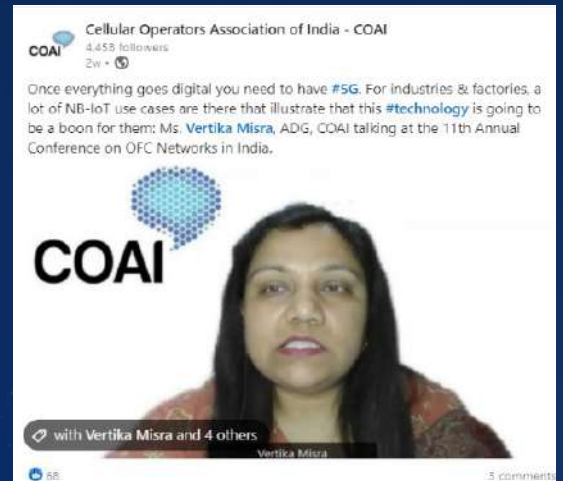
Tamil Nadu has become the 26th state to issue Right of Way (RoW) rules for easing telecom infrastructure rollout in the state, in line with the guidelines issued by the Centre in November 2016, as per telecom industry bodies. [Read more](#)



COAI Events

“11th Annual Conference on OFC Networks in India”

The mission of this conference was to highlight key market trends for OFC in India, discuss emerging growth drivers and opportunities, outline potential business models and applications, and study the impact of key government and private sector initiatives. The conference also showcased innovations and most promising technologies in this arena. It provided a platform for telecom service providers, tower companies, policymakers, OFC manufacturers and technology providers to share their experiences and exchange ideas.



“Awareness Webinar on EMF Radiation”

This session was organized as part of DoT’s public advocacy programme to make the general public aware of the need of mobile towers and dispel myths regarding the health effects of EMF exposure from mobile towers.

The workshop was attended by more than 100 participants including government officials, the general public, residents’ welfare associations, students, doctors, telecom service providers, infrastructure providers and other officials.

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COAI Events

“6th Data and Cyber Security Summit”

CDS 2022, the annual summit was aimed to identify, manage and mitigate the digital risks that stems from using connected devices and systems to run your business. The Covid-19 pandemic has led the fraudsters and scammers to take advantage of our increasingly digital world. Fraudsters are using increasingly innovative methods to swindle people.

The cyber security event witnessed the challenges faced by the industries in the country, and its impact on other areas of the digital economy, as well as the opportunities towards enabling the goal of a trillion-dollar digital economy with introduction of new technologies and associated risks into the areas of Cyber security.





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