

COAI Statement on Cell Phone Towers are safe

Lt. Gen. Dr SP Kochhar, Director General, COAI appreciated the information shared by Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that connectivity is essential, more than ever before, for citizens and the telecom industry ensured the availability and continuity of telecom operations throughout the country for e-learning, through the various online platforms, attending classes/offices from home, OTT services, using mobile phones for various payments and bookings. India holds the potential to lead the telecommunications technology sector across the globe. 5G technology will play a vital role to make India one of the most powerful democracies in the world. With an increase in the pace of 5G deployment, it becomes pertinent to install a robust network of telecom infrastructure including mobile towers, small cells, fibre etc. Telecom towers are the backbone of Indian Mobile Communications. It is important to be addressed that the fear surrounding the theories about EMF radiations is uncorroborated. More towers are required for the realisation of the vision of Gati Shakti and PM's Digital India's. The industry is working with government programs dedicated to expanding and improving telecommunication infrastructure and services across the country. The Govt. of India has defined some of the most stringent emission standards for mobile towers making India one of the few countries worldwide with the most stringent emission standards for mobile towers. The Indian telecom industry follows norms that are 10 times stricter than what has been prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by WHO. DoT continuously monitors the EMF emission levels from towers across India and ensures compliance with emission norms across the country through its field. All telecom service providers are required to ensure the radiation from mobile towers (BTSs) is within prescribed safe limits. LSA also conducts physical audits of sites by selecting them randomly and testing the power of the available EMF signals at different probable locations near the site. There is a need to bust the myth about the health effects from Electromagnetic Field Radiation (EMR) exposure from diverse EMR sources especially Mobile BTS antennae and mobile phones. Therefore, one must rely on the scientific data that EMF radiation from the mobile towers is safe."