

COAI appreciates the launch of 'Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal', a centralized Right of Way Portal by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India

New Delhi, 14th May 2022: COAI, the leading representative body for the Indian telecommunications industry, congratulates the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the Government of India today for the launch of '***Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal***', a central RoW portal, and their efforts for the deployment of 5G in India. The vision for this portal is to provide a collaborative institutional mechanism between all stakeholders including Central and State/UT Government(s), central land owning authorities (Railways, Defence, Porta etc), Local bodies, and Service Providers to facilitate the Right of Way (ROW) applications and permissions for the deployment of the Digital Infrastructure- mobile towers and OFC- in the country. The COAI lauds the efforts for the development of this Portal through which telecom service providers/IPs will be able to submit their applications and the government authorities will be able to process and give timely permissions for the deployment of digital network infrastructure.

For the enhancement of digital services and the forthcoming roll-out of 5G services in India, the country requires densification of mobile networks. Facilitation of development of the national digital infrastructure is one of the key areas of focus for the DoT. for is struggling with the basics when it comes to Right of Way (RoW). We are happy to note that the Portals already developed by State Governments will be integrated with the Gati Shakti Sanchar portal (www.sugamsanchar.gov.in). This will help the States/UTs/Central Agencies who have not developed their own Portal to use the Gati Shakti Sanchar portal for processing the applications filed by TSPs/IPs for the deployment of Digital Infrastructure.

Appreciating the efforts, **Lt. Gen. Dr. SP Kochhar, Director General, COAI**, said, "*The launch of Gati Shakti - Sugam Sanchar Portal is a milestone which will enable the Government's vision for 'Digital India'. It provides a platform to process for both the Authorities and Industry to apply for ROW approvals for laying Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) and erecting mobile towers, and small cells on street furniture etc. to submit their applications to various agencies of the State/UT Governments and local bodies. It is an important step towards making a robust mechanism to achieve the goal of "Broadband to All" as envisaged in the National Digital Communication Policy-2018"*

Currently, the application process for the installation of Digital Infrastructure gets delayed due to inconsistency and uncertainty of policy and processes adopted at various levels. Thus, it requires maintaining a fast-tracking application process to overcome the challenges of implementation of Right of Way Rules-2016. This portal will bring transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to all stakeholders.