



COAI

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I-DIGEST

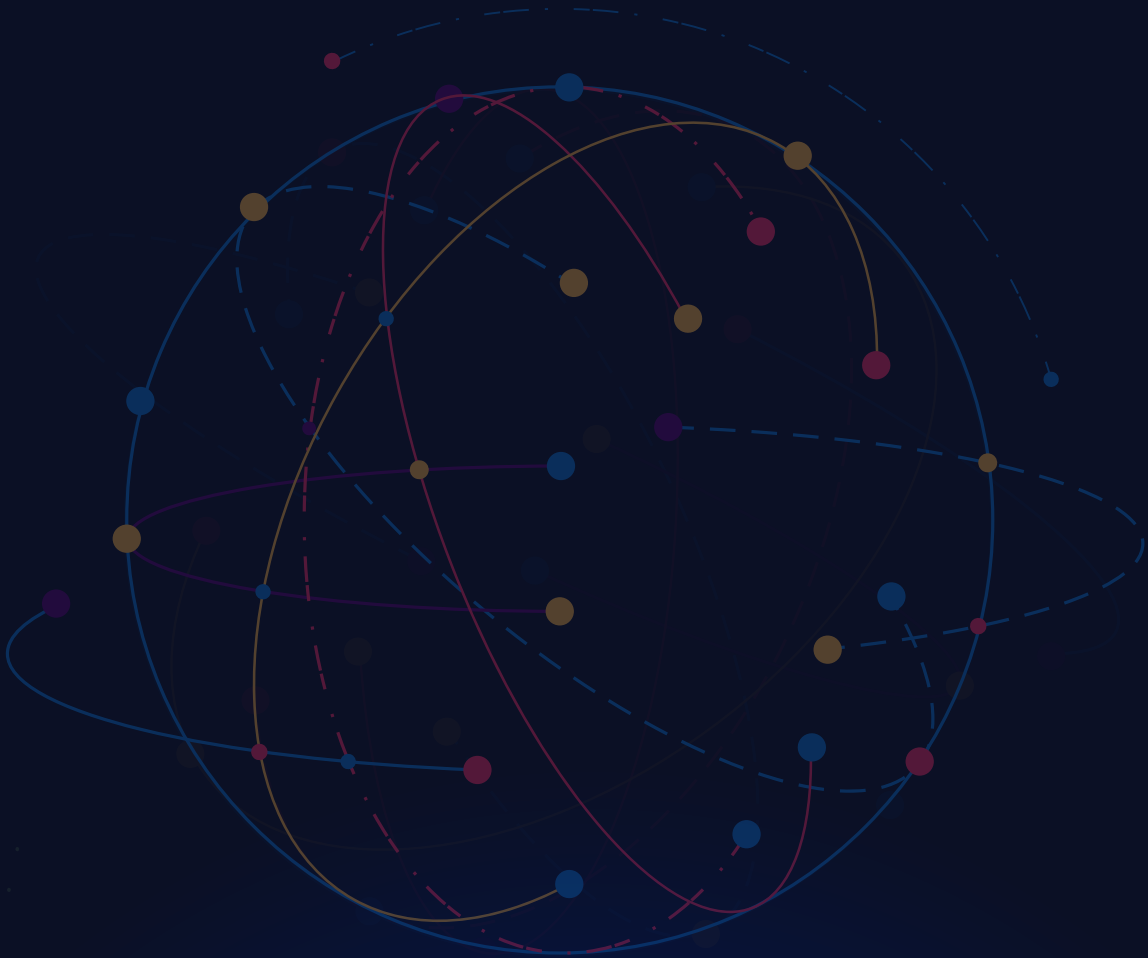
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LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)
Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

The biggest highlight of the month was the mega 5G auction. We would take this opportunity to congratulate the Government and the entire telecom fraternity on the completion of the 5G auction in the country. The participation witnessed in this auction was overwhelming and worth appreciating. This indeed marks as the first step toward multi-dimensional growth across different industry verticals through revolutionizing 5G technology. 5G with its full capability has the potential to transform the country into this digital era. 5G will indeed open the doors to this digital ecosystem and closely move towards achieving the Digital India vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

The next-generation 5G networks is expected to provide a data speed of a minimum of 20 times faster than that of the 4G, hence playing a crucial role in driving the force of AI, AR, VR and big data. 5G will become the future communication platform of choice for every industry like Manufacturing, Education, Health, Entertainment, Real estate etc. in the country.

We are happy that the country will soon witness the launch of commercial 5G and will be able to reap its benefits. The Government has issued various associated guidelines including on spectrum sharing, increasing microwave carriers and even opening of E-band to ensure efficient and effective rollout of 5G.

Another issue that has been proclaimed recently is the issue of illegal repeaters which have massively taken a spike in the last few years. Illegal repeaters are an emerging burden for the telecommunications industry, and also a prime reason for why customers are facing multiple network issues of calls getting dropped and reduction in the data speeds. We are happy to note that DoT has issued a public Advisory stating that sale and possession of illegal repeaters is an offence. It is extremely important to spread this awareness amongst the general public.



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Latest Updates:



Additional requirement for issuance of new mobile connections to local and outstation customers in J&K LSA

COAI vide its letter dated 5th July 2022 requested DoT that guidelines for subscriber verification issued by DoT should be followed by the LSA. Any additional requirements should not be imposed. A large number of activations are performed through an e-KYC process which is the most robust process for activation currently, so such unwarranted insistence by DoT J&K LSA, should be immediately put in abeyance.

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

During the OHD held on 5th July 2022, COAI reiterated its submissions on the issue including the benefits of the PLI scheme and how it can be improved. COAI also highlighted issues that need to be dealt with to promote local manufacturing in India.

Online submission of subscriber database and other relevant data directly into TAF COP server

Based on COAI submission to DoT stating that the digitalisation for online submission of this subscriber database requires substantial changes in our IT ecosystem including multiple checks & security validations as per the company's IT policies but it will require some time, DoT vide its letter dated 6th July 2022 has provided an extension till 10th August 2022.

COAI Response to the TRAI Consultation Paper on "Spectrum Requirements of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) for Train Control System for RRTS Corridors"

On 14th July 2022, COAI submitted its response to TRAI stating that no spectrum from the 700 MHz band which has for long been identified for IMT in India and with a developed global eco-system should be given to NCRTC. COAI also highlighted that TRAI itself has noted and recommended earlier that the spectrum allocated to Indian railways can cater to the needs of RRTS. TRAI after

careful evaluation while recommending 5 MHz in the 700 MHz band to IR clearly stated that this may be given to other entities in other areas. The interference report by a group of experts also states that sharing is possible.

Loss of Revenues to Exchequer & Industry with CNPN

COAI vide its letter dated 20th July 2022 highlighted to the Government the revenue loss that the exchequer and the industry would have to bear with the introduction of CNPN by direct allocation of spectrum to entities. It was also highlighted that the telecom service providers are capable of meeting market demand for 5G enterprise use cases either through spectrum leasing or network slicing and radio segmentation over their Public Networks. This is a more efficient use of a scarce national resource, as compared, to the situation in which spectrum is set aside for non-public captive networks, which is inefficient and causes revenue loss to the exchequer apart from escaping from Law Enforcement Agency's requirements.

Cloud Based Service offering by new licensees

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 05th July 2022. Vide this letter we requested DoT that Mobile Series and LRN codes which have been allotted to an Access Service licensee to provide Internet Telephony Services. However, the said licensee does not have spectrum, access network, and pan India license. This has raised serious concerns with mobile service providers who have invested in the spectrum, access network, and all India licenses and have various obligations to meet such as QoS and Emergency Services. So, this will lead to a serious regulatory imbalance and violation of regulatory principles of the level-playing field and will severely impact investments and orderly growth in the sector.

SoP for Deduction Verification

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 11th July 2022. Vide this letter we have submitted the SoP for DVR issues by DoT which were highlighted by our members in the meeting on 21st June 2022 and we also submitted our request against each DVR issue.

Request for additional Time to comply with requirements of Quality of Service (Code of Practice for Metering and Billing Accuracy) Regulation, 2006

COAI submitted a letter to TRAI on 14th July 2022. Vide this letter we requested TRAI to kindly grant an extension of three months from the respective due dates for submission of the Metering and Billing Audit Report and Action Taken Report due to the COVID situation.

Introduction of E-SIM in handsets

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 20th July 2022. Vide this letter we requested DoT that necessary instructions may be issued recommending to Handset manufacturers in the country to introduce E-SIMS (in addition to the physical SIM slot) in all smartphone handsets costing Rs. 10,000/- and above. Furthermore, considering the wide proliferation of eSIM devices in the coming time, solutions may also be kindly mandated in the handsets to facilitate device-to-device transfer if customer changes between eSIM devices.

Conduct "Consumer Education Workshops (CEWs)" through digital/online mode

COAI submitted a letter to TRAI on 27th June 2022. Vide this letter we requested TRAI to allow the TSPs to conduct the CEWs via online mode for at least the next four quarters i.e., from 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 as it is more efficient and enables greater participation. Further, the risk of the spread of COVID is also still present as new variants keep emerging.

Parameters for Internet Protocol Detail Record (IPDR) and SYS LOG of Network Address Translation (NAT)

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 30th June 2022. Vide this letter we requested DoT to implement this through a centralized agency and bear all the costs involved as the implementation of these instructions is beyond the capability of the infrastructure deployed by TSPs/ISPs. Nodal officers of TSPs/ISPs should not be required to certify IPDR for its use as evidence in the investigation. Unlike voice CDRs, IPDR information will be generated by correlating database from multiple sources rather than generating it from a single source as per the applicable standards.

Meeting regarding RoW issues for MoRTH

I. COAI and their members had a meeting with Secretary, MoRTH to discuss RoW Policy and industry's issues on 16.06.2022. Official minutes of the meeting were received from the Secretary (MoRTH) office and sent to TIC and EC members. COAI is following up with the MoRTH office regarding the action points.

Meeting regarding RoW issues with MoEF&CC

I. Meeting held with IRO Bangalore for the State of Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, and Lakshadweep.
II. FRC Meeting on IRO Jaipur for Rajasthan held on 01st July 2022. Members shared details of pending permissions for speedy resolution.
III. Fortnightly Regional Coordination Meeting (FRCM) for the states of HP and Andhra Pradesh was held to discuss pendency and RoW-related matters.

DLTC meeting in Panaji

DLTC meeting was organised in Panaji on 01.07.2022. Industry issues like telecom tower pendency, OFC pendency, etc. were discussed.

3rd State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Gujarat held on 07.07.2022

The Gujarat 3rd SBC meeting held on 07.07.2022 under the chairmanship of Secretary (DST), wherein several industry issues/challenges were highlighted like Regularization of Towers, Development and Integration Online Portal, Provision/Permissions for Aerial OFC, etc.

Regularization of Mobile towers/ ROW issues in Tamil Nadu

COAI letter was submitted to Principal Secretary (IT), Tamil Nadu on 06.07.2022 regarding Regularization of Mobile towers/ ROW through online Portal and related Issues as per Decision taken in the Meeting held on 21.06.2022

VC meeting with Director General (Telecom) to discuss RoW pendency in Haryana

An industry VC meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Director General (Telecom) on 12.07.2022 to discuss the RoW pendency of Haryana.

3rd State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Bihar held on 04.07.2022

The Bihar 3rd SBC meeting held on 04.07.2022 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Bihar wherein several industry issues/challenges were highlighted like Telecom Tower & OFC pendencies, Provision/Permissions for Aerial OFC, etc.

Letter submission to Chief Secretary Uttar Pradesh on industry issues

02 letters submitted on Rationalization of Aerial OFC charges and Safety and Security of Telecom Infrastructure on 08.07.2022.

Letter to Adviser to Administrator to be submitted post DD & DNH UT Broadband Committee meeting

COAI letter submitted to Administrator, DD & DNH UT Broadband Committee regarding issues during the SBC meeting held on 30.06.2022

3rd State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Himachal Pradesh held on 19.07.2022

The 3rd SBC meeting of Himachal Pradesh was held on 19.07.2022 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, HP wherein several industry issues/challenges were highlighted like Telecom Tower & OFC pendencies, Provision/Permissions for Aerial OFC, etc.

4th State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Kerala held on 19.07.2022

The 4th SBC meeting of Kerala was held on 19.07.2022 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Kerala wherein

several industry issues/challenges were highlighted like Telecom Tower & OFC pendencies, Provision/Permissions for Aerial OFC, etc.

Meeting with the Ministry of Defence

A meeting with DDG (land), Defence was held on 21.07.2022 regarding RoW pendency.

Lifting of Ban during Monsoon in Karnataka

A letter requesting for Lifting of Ban on Deployment of Telecom Infrastructure During Monsoon Period was submitted to Government of Karnataka.

Click Before you Dig' application

COAI has been taking up the issue of the 'Call before you Dig' policy across the country during the various National Broadband meetings (NBM) and State Broadband Committee (SBC) meetings held in past few years. COAI has been advocating DoT to define the procedure/Toll-free State-wise number/Website/Nominate nodal officer to be contacted/instructions to be followed by contractors to avoid damaging underground Optical Fibre Cables during construction/extension of roads. A VC meeting was held with the NBM team on 05.07.2022 to discuss the 'Click Before You Dig App Data Flow Document' and a presentation on the 'Click Before You Dig App'. Members' inputs were shared. The application is expected to be launched soon.

Issues with Delhi Cantt Board, Delhi, and Delhi Airport Authority

Industry issues with Delhi Cantt Board, Delhi, and Delhi Airport Authority were shared with Delhi LSA, DoT on 04.07.2022 for their intervention and support for a quick resolution. These issues will also be addressed during the next SBC meeting of Delhi planned for August 2022.

COAI letter to NDMC

COAI letter was submitted on 07.07.2022 to the Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to allow OFC laying during monsoon season on dry days. This is regarding the ongoing Fiberisation of Telecom Towers across the New Delhi Municipal Council region of Delhi.

Meeting with DDG(R), Delhi LSA on 11.07.2022

An industry meeting was held with DDG(R), Delhi LSA regarding the RoW Issues on 11.07.2022. A list of pending permissions of Tower & OFC was shared with Delhi LSA to seek their support for early resolution.

2nd SBC Meeting of Arunachal Pradesh on 28.07.2022

The 2nd SBC meeting of Arunachal Pradesh was held on 28.07.2022 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh wherein several industry issues/challenges were highlighted like Telecom Tower & OFC pendencies, Provision/Permissions for Aerial OFC, etc.

Letter to Chairman, NDMC reg. revision of license fee for installation of CoWs

A reminder letter was submitted to the new Chairman, NDMC to discard the revision of the license fee of @8% per annum (compounding) for the installation of Cell on Wheels.

3rd State Broadband Committee meeting of Chhattisgarh

On 29th July 2022, the 3rd SBC of Chhattisgarh was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh. Some of the industry issues raised by COAI to seek intervention and support of CS, Chhattisgarh was - high Electricity rates that need to be reduced to the Industrial rates, safety and security of Digital Infrastructure, Street furniture, Illegal repeaters/ boosters, etc.

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News Wires:

India set for 5G spectrum auction, Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel leads the race

With the mega 5G spectrum auction (worth Rs. 1.9 Lakh crore) beginning from Tuesday amid the tussle over captive private 5G networks, Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel are set to boost their market share as India prepares for a 5G era.

[Read more](#)



COAI urges fair play to prevent 'backdoor entry' to big tech for enterprise 5G

Top telcos Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone-Idea have reiterated the importance of a level playing field when it comes to acquiring 5G spectrum for captive networks. [Read more](#)



DoT warns e-commerce firms on the illegal sale of wireless jammers, network boosters

The department of telecom has warned e-commerce platforms against selling some telecom gears like wireless jammers and network boosters that require government permission for sale, an official statement said on Monday.

[Read more](#)



Telecom industry alerts against mobile tower installation fraud

The telecom industry is cautioning the public against fraudsters who might approach them under the pretense of installing a mobile tower on their property. [Read more](#)



COAI Events

“3rd State Broadband Committee Meeting”

Bihar LSA along with Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar conducted the 3rd State Broadband Committee meeting. COAI appreciates their efforts for the same in hope that this will be helpful in the speedy roll-out of telecom Infrastructure and resolve the industry's issues at the earliest.



13th Edition of Business IT Conclave 2022”

Director General, Lt Gen Dr. SP Kochhar attended the 13th Edition of Business IT Conclave 2022: Future of Technology organised by The Bengal Chambers of Commerce and Industry where he talked about the benefits of 5G technology and its role in India's Digital India vision also reflecting on how it is set to transform industry function and experiences.



“2nd State Broadband Committee Meeting”

Himachal Pradesh LSA along with Shri R D Dhiman, IAS (Chief Secretary, HP) conducted the 2nd State Broadband Committee meeting. COAI appreciates their efforts for the same in hopes that this will resolve RoW issues and help boost telecom Infrastructure in the state.



COAI Events

“3rd State Broadband Committee Meeting”

Gujarat LSA along with Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat conducted the 3rd State Broadband Committee meeting. COAI appreciates their efforts for the same in hope that this will be helpful in the speedy roll-out of telecom Infrastructure and resolve the industry's issues at the earliest.



“India Mobile Congress 2022 Curtain Raiser”

COAI in collaboration with DoT India organized the India Mobile Congress 2022 in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State for Communications, Sh. Devusinh Chauhan on 28th July 2022. The ministers shared their valuable addresses and appreciated the efforts of the telecom industry in making the 5G Auction a huge success.





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