



COAI

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I-DIGEST

Connecting the World

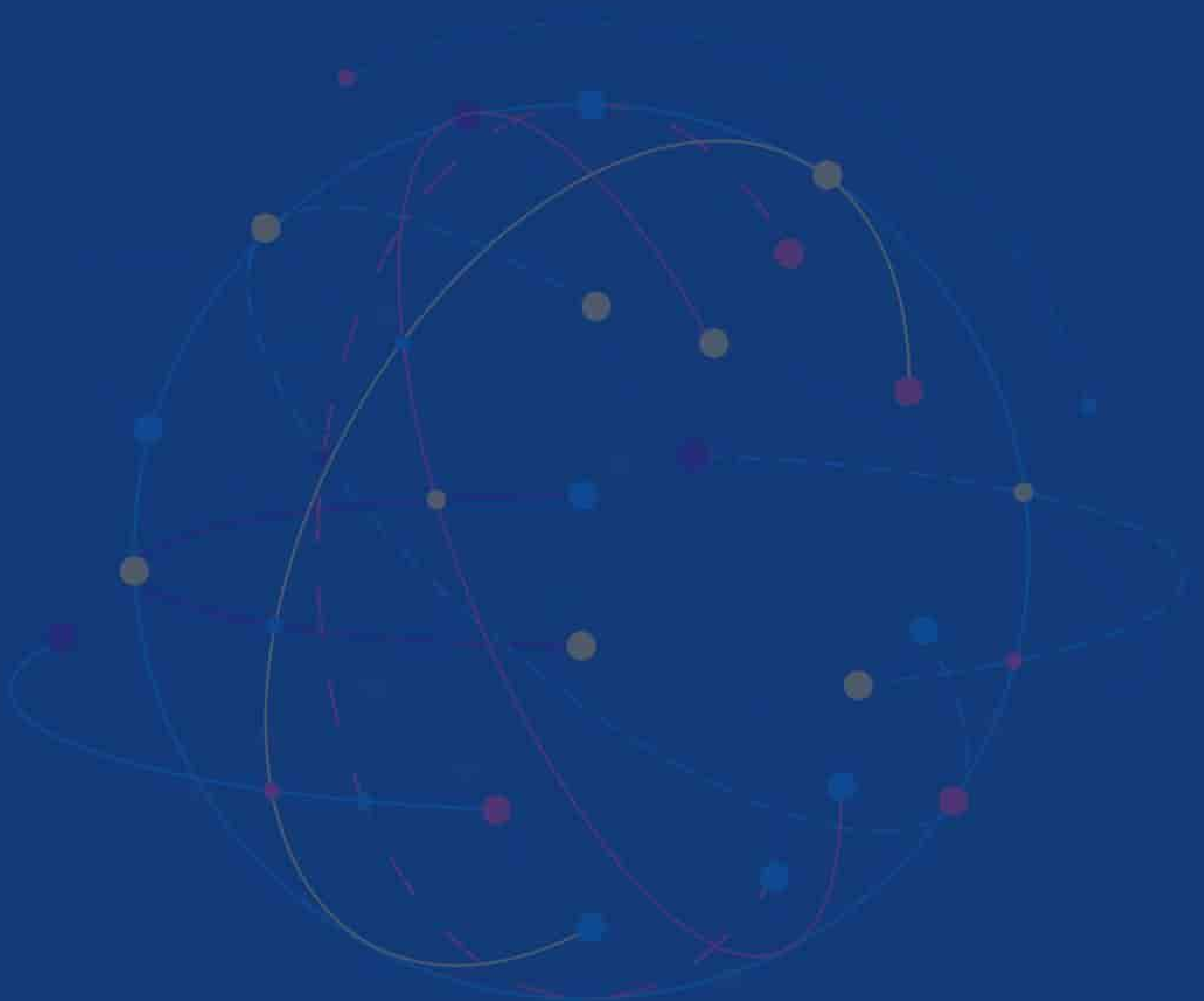
News for you,
information that matters



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

From DG's Desk

India's telecom industry is evolving more than ever now! This digital boom will continue to provide opportunity to the masses in a great number. This reassuring technology of 5G, cloud computing, AI/ ML, will require skills that will be sustainable to the ecosystem in the industry 4.0 revolution. As a step in the direction of early introduction of 5G in India, the Govt. issued NIA on 15th June 2022 and pre-bid conference was held on 20th June, 2022. Our members participated actively in the pre-bid conference and raised concerns on Captive networks, roll-out obligations and requirement of BGs.

Since the pandemic, the advancement in the technology has only witnessed a spike and with the deployment of 5G in India, it will continue to rise and shine. Consumers will benefit abundantly, as 5G is 100 times faster than the prevailing technology. With an underlying change in the mobile network architecture, 5G will create massive opportunities for both the telecom industry and the consumers.

With the fast-pacing revolution and cutting-edge technology, 5G has the true potential to transform the lives of the citizens of the country. Considering the powerful benefits that it has to offer, what is importantly required will be the government's support acting as a pillar in not only the deployment of the technology but also, skilling and upskilling the masses so as to meet with the skills requirements for this revolution. Some of the skills that the industry will be looking for in the talents will include their understanding of network architecture designs, big data analytics, programming skills, network protocols, and their understanding of augmented reality and virtual reality.

Undeniably finding the right resource with a decent amount of experience is going to be a challenge for the time being but along with the traditional learning and upskilling with the technology, the resources will be trained well for the future that is tech-oriented. Now is the time for them to rewrite their resumes and invest in big data learning, and for the telecom industry along with the government to rewrite their job descriptions and provide the young talents with the right telecom knowledge to keep with 5G deployments and various other new developments on the policy front.

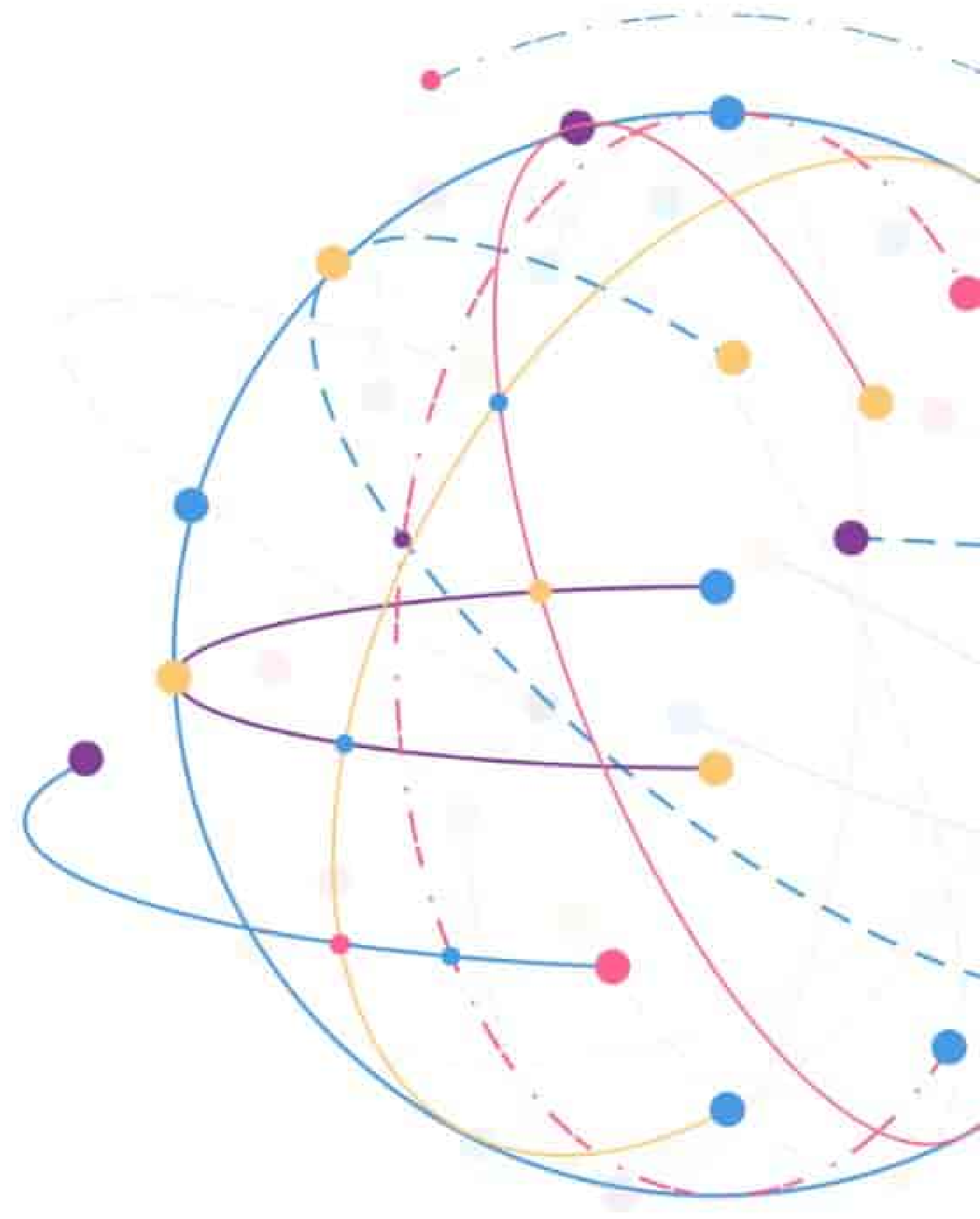
One such new policy development is expected in the area of "Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity. In this regard, on 30th June 2022, COAI submitted its detailed response to the TRAI CP on "Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity, emphasizing the case of utilities such as gas, water and electricity facilities which are mandatory for a building, good telecom digital connectivity infrastructure should also be a mandatory requisite for all buildings.

Besides COAI also continued to engage with the Govt. on the all-important issue of definition of AGR. Given the significant financial implications, we have requested the Govt. that the definition of Gross Revenue and Adjusted Gross Revenue should be revised as per our various submissions to facilitate unhindered growth of the telecom sector.



COAI

Latest Updates:



Transfer of USOF projects to BSNL:

COAI has submitted a letter to DoT on 02nd June 2022. Vide this letter we requested DoT to kindly reconsider the decision of awarding USOF projects to BSNL on nomination basis without discovering the lowest possible rates, through exclusion of all other eligible Telecom Service Providers.

We have requested DoT to restore the policy of USOF to allot projects on the basis of open and transparent bids from all TSPs in a competitive tender.

TRAI CP on "Use of street furniture for Small cell and Aerial Fiber deployment"

COAI has submitted the response to the CP to TRAI on 21st June 2022. TRAI Open House Discussion (OHD) is yet to be held and Recommendations are awaited.

TRAI CP on "Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity"

COAI has submitted its detailed response to the TRAI CP on "Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity" on 30th June. In our response we have submitted that **like the case of utilities such as gas, water and electricity facilities which are mandatory for a building, good telecom digital connectivity infrastructure should also be a mandatory requisite.**

Exclusion of M2 M-related services from the purview of service barring orders

COAI submitted a request letter to DoT on 21st June 2022. Vide this letter COAI has requested that IoT and M2M services should be exempted from disruption from any service barring order. Accordingly, to avoid customer inconvenience and to ensure business continuity, we requested DoT to issue a directive that 13-digit M2M numbers should not be covered in case of service barring orders issued by competent authorities due to the law & order situations.

Review of Definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)

COAI submitted a letter to TRAI on 08th June 2022. Vide this letter we requested that Gross Revenue and Adjusted Gross Revenue should be revised as per our submissions to facilitate unhindered growth of the telecom sector.

Cloud-Based Service offering by new licensees

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 13th June 2022. Vide this letter we requested DoT to kindly revisit its decision of allocating MSC Codes/Mobile numbering series to non-spectrum-based licensee. Such an action, if taken now and in time, will help prevent damage to the current telecom ecosystem and will be in line with the Digital India vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

Instructions regarding phones ported to other Mobile Operator's networks which are under lawful interception and monitoring (LIM)

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 13th June 2022. Vide this letter We request DoT urgent intervention to enhance the customer convenience by reducing timelines for porting in Assam and North East LSA.

Request for conducting meetings in online or hybrid mode

COAI submitted a letter to DoT or TRAI on 13th June 2022. Vide this letter We highlighted that online or hybrid/VC meetings are a very efficient way of conducting meetings and enable much wider and better participation especially when Business, IT, and Technical experts and representatives from our member companies, who are based in other parts of India, are required to participate in such meetings and provide their views, which otherwise is quite challenging in physical meetings.

Request to simplify documentation requirements under MTCTE

COAI submitted a letter to TEC on June 07, 2022, on the subject wherein COAI requested DoT to remove onerous documentation required under MTCTE and de-link MTCTE and NSDTS. We also reiterate our request regarding the extension of the mandatory certification date till June 30, 2023. Phases 3 & 4 of MTCTE have been extended till July 1, 2023, and ILAC acceptance till June 30, 2022.

Smooth Implementation of National Security Directive on Telecom Sector

COAI made a submission on June 7, 2022, wherein it highlighted some practical challenges that all TSPs are facing and provided some suggestions to ensure that the implementation of NSDT is seamless and expand their networks to meet customers' demands for high-speed, quality connectivity, and broadband services.

Interference issues arising in DTH/HITS/MSOs etc. due to 5G Trial Services and Installation of Band Pass Filters

COAI took up the issue with MIB vide letter dated June 7, 2022 wherein COAI requested the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to ensure that the implementation to install Band Pass Filters is done before the 5G spectrum is auctioned by the Government of India. We requested to seek compliance from these DTH/HITS/MSOs operators to ensure smooth operations of all the services.

Non-applicability of end user list in respect of bulk mobile connections

COAI had made a submission to DoT regarding several enterprise solutions that do not have any end-users in the form and manner as envisaged by the DoT and had requested that end user list be exempted for such cases. On the issue, a meeting was held with DoT and a submission was made on June 7, 2022 giving details of various scenarios and how user information will be captured.

Private Captive Networks

Vide its submission dated June 8, 2022 to the Government, COAI submitted that aim of the Government is to cater to industrial needs of various industry verticals by ensuring they get the connectivity they need to support their use cases. This can easily be provided by the TSPs as per their existing licensing conditions. Giving away dedicated spectrum for private captive networks will render the rollout of 5G services by the TSPs needless because of lack of business case.

CERT-In Directions relating to information security practices, procedure, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents for Safe & Trusted Internet

A consultation was scheduled by MeitY under the chairmanship of Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology on 10th June, 2022. COAI submissions were presented during the consultation including overlapping license conditions and incident reporting.

TASSCOM Issues: Related to Tarang Sanchar Portal

COAI reverted to issues raised in TASSCOM meetings related to provision of backhaul connectivity in NEP Portal, classification of tower sites as urban/ rural and source of power for telecom sites. COAI stated that the purpose of Tarang Sanchar is for Tower and BTS EMF exposure compliance related data and Self-Certificate submission. Portal is already handling humungous data and these issues have no relation to EMF. Moreover, this data is already being provided to DoT separately.

Guidelines for Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN) through Spectrum assigned directly by DoT

COAI made submissions to the Government on 18th & 22nd June 2022 suggesting guidelines and compliance requirements to be followed by the CNPNs through direct spectrum allocation by DoT. COAI mentioned that this is necessary to ensure orderly growth of the sector and maintain investor's confidence. COAI submitted that the Government should issue licensing framework / Guidelines for CNPN only after a demand study by DoT post a consultation with TSPs and prospective CNPNs and subsequent recommendations of TRAI who in-turn will have to carry out a detailed stakeholder consultation in a transparent manner as prescribed under TRAI Act.

Online submission of subscriber database and other relevant data directly into TAFCOP server & storage of subscriber database on TAFCOP server up to 6 months

COAI made a submission to DoT on 22nd June 2022 stating that the digitalization for online submission of this subscriber database surely requires substantial changes in our IT ecosystem including multiple checks & security validations as per the company's IT policies. The industry very determined to digitalize the subscriber database submission on priority, however, the DoT is requested to provide reasonable timelines of 3 months i.e., till 10.09.2022 to digitize the subscriber database submission.

Meeting with Rajasthan Govt. reg. slow processing of RoW application

A meeting was organized by Rajasthan LDSSA to convey the slow progress in putting applications online on 09.06.2022.

Meeting regarding RoW pendencies and Mahasanchar Portal of Maharashtra

A meeting chaired by Principal Secretary (IT) was convened on 08.06.2022 to discuss the pendencies and use of online portals.

Fiber Cuts in Bengaluru, Karnataka

There is rampant fibre cuts in Bengaluru by BESCOM. These cuts are creating lots of issues. COAI wrote a letter on 10.06.2022 to MD BESCOM to do the needful and also to request a meeting.

Deemed Approval in RoW Policy of Himachal Pradesh, 2021

COAI letter was submitted to Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh on 10.06.2022 for adopting Deemed Approval clause in HPRoW 2021. Documents related to Deemed "Approval" to other States were also submitted.

Avoid Telecom disruption in Haryana

COAI submitted a letter on 08.06.2022 to the Chief Secretary, Haryana to avoid disruption to the telecom during the Induction of a New Diesel Filler Partner in Haryana

RoW issues in Tamil Nadu

COAI submitted two letters to the Principal Secretary (IT) regarding regularization of Tower, Provision of Payment Gateway in portal, and other RoW issues, Tamil Nadu on 10.06.2022 to apprise him regarding the RoW issues faced by members across Tamil Nadu

RoW issues in Tamil Nadu

COAI submitted a letter to the Additional Secretary, Tamil Nadu on 10.06.2022 to apprise him regarding the RoW issues faced by members across Tamil Nadu

Meeting with Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE), Ministry of Defence

COAI and their members had a meeting with SADG, DGDE to discuss RoW Policy on 16.06.2022 and on 23rd Jun 2022 to finalize the same

Letter to Principal Secretary (IT), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh (AP)

During the 3rd SBC of Andhra Pradesh on raising the issue of Safety and Security, Chief Secretary Asked for the G.O. issued by respective States, industry's issues and the state-wise Pole Charges comparison. This was shared with the Principal Secretary (IT), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh (AP) on 16.06.2022. Issue of regarding High Charges, levying additional Taxes like Property tax, etc. was also mentioned in the same letter.

Tripura RoW Policy

IT Department of Tripura shared the draft "Tripura Telecom Infrastructure RoW Guideline, 2022" - Guidelines for granting Permission for installation of Underground Telegraph Infrastructure and Overground Telegraph Infrastructure for the input of the stakeholders on 14th June 2022. The policy is progressive and will be helpful for the speedy roll-out of Digital Infrastructure across the State. The industry's inputs were submitted to the IT Department of Tripura for the Draft Tripura Telecom Infrastructure RoW Guideline, 2022.

Memo issued by DITEC, Assam reg. revision of current charges for LT poles for overhead OFC

This is in reference to various submissions done by COAI and engagement with Assam Govt. to issue appropriate directions for the requisite amendments in Assam's RoW Guidelines dated February 13, 2018. One of the issues raised by COAI was the reduction of Aerial Fiber charges on own poles and EB poles from Rs.1500/- per pole to Rs.100/- per pole in Urban areas and Rs.50/- per pole in Rural areas.

This is to further update you that on COAI's request, the Department of Telecommunication, Govt. of India had considered COAI's request in the "Draft RoW Policy Guidelines on Right of Way (RoW) for Establishment of Telecom Infrastructure and made the following amendment in Para 4.3.1(ii) of the policy as below:

"Annual compensation for usage of existing poles of any authority for establishing overground telecommunications line (OFC) shall not exceed Rs. 100 per pole, utilizing which the telecommunications line is proposed to be established".

However, DITEC (Directorate of Information Technology & Electronics Communication, Assam) has examined the draft policy and recommended Rs. 300 per pole per annum vide letter no. DITEC.159/2019/137 dated 6th May 2022 considering the topology, terrain, structural stability of the poles, installation and maintenance cost of the LT Poles, etc. for the State of Assam.

In this connection, DITEC has recommended waiting till the publishing of the final RoW Policy by DoT for further action. A copy of the memo issued by DITEC in this regard is enclosed for your reference.

COAI will continue to engage Assam LSA and Assam State Govt. to issue appropriate directions for the requisite amendments in Assam's RoW Guidelines dated February 13, 2018, including reduction of Aerial Fiber charges on own poles and EB poles from Rs.1500/- per pole to Rs.100/- per pole in Urban areas and Rs.50/- per pole in Rural areas.

Alignment of RoW Policy of Airport authority with RoW Rules, 2016

COAI's had a meeting with Airport Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Member(T), DoT on Tuesday, 28th June 2022. COAI raised the following issues:

- a) To rationalize the RoW charges for installation of Telecom Infrastructure aligned with RoW Rules, 2016
- b) All Airports (Private and Government alike) across India & members of the Association of Private Airport Operators (APAO) should be covered by default under the revised RoW Policy of AAI and be aligned to RoW Rules, 2016
- c) To establish an online approval process as done by other state or civic bodies to expedite permissions

District level Committee meeting held under Chairmanship of District Magistrate, Shahdara

Given below are the highlights of DLTC meeting held on 9th Jun 2022 under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate, Shahdara:

- Appointment of Nodal officer for Telecom matters
- What's group was formed for District Shahdara with all relevant Stakeholders
- Monthly DLTC meetings to happen
- Issues of Telecom Industry highlighted and discussed and support required
- Support from Police Authorities
- EMF Awareness documents and campaigns to be done on a regular basis
- It was also requested by DC to place 1 permanent informative hoarding regarding EMF within the office premises. The same need to be discussed with members for their approval.
- Case studies, EMF Awareness videos, and other relevant material was shared on the What's app group. Based on EMF material (to be) shared and after listening to RWAs, DC will take the decision on the level of support to be extended to the industry/to issue directions to the Police for their support during Telecom Infrastructure installation.

Industry meeting held under Chairmanship of Addl. Commissioner, MCD, Delhi

Industry meeting held under the Chairmanship of Ms. Shilpa Shinde, Addl. Commissioner (Engg.) at 4 PM yesterday i.e Monday, 13.06.2022. The following issues were discussed during the meeting:

- Respective TSP/IP1 to meet Zonal DCs on an immediate basis to get speedy permissions
- Ms. Shilpa Shinde recommended organizing a review meeting with all Zonal DCs along with EE(Bldg.) under her Chairmanship on a weekly basis every Monday
- Reconciliation of 7.80 crores of Indus to be resolved as only 60 permissions have been issued. Addl. Commissioner suggested resolving the same on an immediate basis
- A combined what's app group of all 3 MCDs was made. COAI shared the updated status of pending sites with MCD officials for speedy grant of permissions
- MCD Portal: A unified MCD Portal will be made operational in some time
- Post compilation of the pending permissions in the enclosed format, Zone-wise (DCs, AE, etc.) review meeting under the Chairmanship of Addl. (Eng), MCD, Delhi to be organized by MCD. Details of the Zone-wise review meeting are to be shared by MCD

EMF Awareness Seminars/Webinars

COAI supported the following LSAs of Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India to organize EMF Awareness Seminars/Webinars" to dispel myths around #EMF radiation and to address unfounded fears of citizens by presenting credible scientific evidence.

- West Bengal LSA (09.06.2022)
- Sikkim Unit, West Bengal LSA (20.06.2022)
- Kolkata LSA (29.06.2022)

Meeting with National Broadband Mission (NBM) team, DoT, Govt. of India reg. 5G roll-out

COAI shared the industry's inputs on 09.06.2022 with NBM team, DoT on Action To be Taken for speedy 5G rollout: Rollout of Small Cells for 5G Network by leveraging Street Furniture in 14 Town.

Meeting with National Broadband Mission (NBM) team, DoT, Govt. of India reg. RoW Portal

'GatiShakti Sanchar' Portal for Right of Way approvals (www.sugamsanchar.gov.in) was launched on 14th May 2022. All the States/UTs are being integrated with the central portal. States/UTs who did not have their portal, are being enrolled for centralised portal and portal of other states are being integrated. A meeting was held with National Broadband Mission (NBM) team, DoT, Govt. of India reg. RoW Portal in which COAI shared industry inputs on the issues faced by members w.r.t RoW Portal of States/UTs.

Meeting with Sr.DDG, Assam LSA to review the pending RoW cases (Tower&OFC)

An industry meeting was held on 10-06-2022 (Friday) under the chairmanship of Sr.DDG, Assam LSA to review the pending RoW cases (Tower&OFC).

DLTC meeting held under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate, West District

An industry DLTC meeting held under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate, West District was held on 3rd June 2022. Some of the issues discussed during the meeting are as follows:

- 1) Members to share the following lists within a 10 days' time:
 - Sites not getting permissions due to EMF issues
 - Sites pending approval
 - Sites whose permission is revoked
- 2) Safety of Telecom Infrastructure- On receipt of the list of Sites not getting permission due to EMF issues, the DM office will issue appropriate orders/ directions to support the rollout of Telecom Infrastructure
- 3) Next meeting to be scheduled in 1 months' time

2nd SBC for the State of Karnataka shall be convened

2nd SBC for the State of Karnataka was convened on 27th June 2022 and same was chaired by Smt Vandita Sharma, IAS, Chief Secretary GoK. A pre-SBC meeting was held on 25th Jun 2022 for discussion of issues. COAI raised industry issues like provision for availability street furniture for deployment of Telecom Infrastructure, rampant fibre cut by BBMP & BESCOM, etc.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Punjab

2nd SBC meeting of Punjab under the chairmanship of CS Shri Anirudh Tiwari was held on 21.06.2022 wherein several industry issues/challenges were highlighted.

Uttar Pradesh

Review Meeting scheduled between the Director General (Telecom) with TSPs/IPs, UP LSA and UP Govt on 24th June 2022 to discuss RoW Pendency and RoW related matters. Many key issues were highlighted like Policy Implementation challenges, High Restoration charges, Challenges in laying Aerial OFC, Sealing of Sites, Regularisation of Existing Infrastructure, Safety and Security of Telecom Infrastructure, Priority EB connection at Industrial tariff etc.

Gujarat

An interactive session was organised under the aegis of a high-level delegation from the DoT HQ comprising of the Additional Secretary (Telecom), Member (T) DCC, Sr. DDG Gujarat LSA, DDG (SRI) and DDG (AS) to discuss issues related to 5G rollout / Fiberization / RoW at Gandhinagar on 24.06.2022.

GST- Input Tax credit on equipment installed on telecom tower – Joint representation to Finance Minister along with DIPA.

Some of the State Tax Authorities are proposing to deny ITC on telecom equipment including crucial network equipment viz. antenna, base stations, transmitters and other utilities like DG and batteries installed on towers by interpreting that such equipment is to be treated at par with telecom tower.

Denial of ITC on telecom equipment installed on telecom towers or other equipment like batteries, diesel generating sets etc installed in temporary shelters close to the telecom towers for running of the telecom equipment is therefore totally baseless and without any precedent.

Joint follow up representation sent to Finance Minister along with DIPA seeking meeting to discuss this issue. DoT has also requested Revenue Secretary to consider representation made by COAI in this regard.

Implementation of DoT Guidelines / Clarifications towards the deduction verification exercise

This is with reference to the guidelines issued by DoT on 23-03-2021. Such guidelines were to be applied for DVR verification for the years / circles / licenses for which dues have not been finalized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court till FY 2016-17 and for all the years post FY 2016-17. **However subsequently a clarification has been issued on 24-11-2021, wherein these verification guidelines are to be applied for deduction verification work for FY 2019-20 onwards.**

Applying two different understanding for the same expense in two separate years defeats the very purpose of issuing a clarification and streamline the whole process as a part of Ease of Doing Business and creates confusion amongst the stake holders.

We have requested DoT that the guidelines /clarification dated 03/02/2020 and 23/03/2021 should be made applicable for FYs 2017-18 and 2018-19 and any other period which were not part of demands crystalized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in AGR matter; and all open verification issues should be examined accordingly, and clarification issued in November 2021 should be withdrawn.

Jio's Mittal takes over as COAI Chairperson 2022-23

The announcement came in the backdrop of the body's annual general meeting held Tuesday. Mittal comes with an experience of 42 years in telecommunications. Before joining Reliance Jio Infocomm, he served in the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, for over 37 years.

[Read more](#)



COAI writes to DoT, demands tough norms for captive private networks

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has demanded imposition of tough conditions for allowing enterprises to set up "captive non-public networks".

[Read more](#)



DoT conducts seminar "Myths on Electromagnetic Radiation"

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Sikkim unit, West Bengal License Service Area (LSA) organized a seminar "Myths on Electromagnetic Radiation" on June 20, 2022 as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

[Read more](#)



COAI Events

"EMF Emissions from Mobile Towers – West Bengal LSA"

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), West Bengal License Service Area (LSA) organized an awareness webinar on "EMF Emissions and Telecom Towers". This session was organized as part of the Department of Telecommunication's public advocacy program to make the general public aware of the need for mobile towers and dispel myths around EMF radiation and address unfounded fears of citizens by presenting credible scientific evidence.



"EMF Emissions from Mobile Towers – Sikkim Unit, West Bengal LSA"

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Sikkim Unit, West Bengal License Service Area (LSA) organized an awareness webinar on "EMF Emissions and Telecom Towers". This session was organized as part of the Department of Telecommunication's public advocacy program to make the general public aware of the need for mobile towers and dispel myths around EMF radiation and address unfounded fears of citizens by presenting credible scientific evidence.



"Awareness Webinar on EMF Radiation – Kolkata LSA"

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Kolkata License Service Area (LSA) organized an awareness webinar on "Awareness Webinar on EMF Radiation". This session was organized as part of the Department of Telecommunication's public advocacy program to make the general public aware of the need for mobile towers and dispel myths around EMF radiation and address unfounded fears of citizens by presenting credible scientific evidence.





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Get to know us better. Our social media platforms are a great way to learn about our upcoming events, opportunities, latest trends and more. Follow us and join a diverse group of people across the nation and all around the world

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