



COAI

ISSUE
OCTOBER 2022

I-DIGEST

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CONTENT

- 3 From DG's Desk
- 4 COAI Latest Updates
- 7 News Wires
- 9 COAI Events





LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

The digital revolution is on and about, providing every industry vertical across the board to rethink their business models, so that they stay ahead in the game. Digitization has proclaimed to be the most powerful change in this era. The telecom operators are focusing on improving the engagement with users in a way that the people prefer. The industry is also continuously stepping up efforts towards helping safeguard the consumers in all possible manners from cyber malpractices – frauds, pesky messages, etc. to help prevent losses of their online assets.

The launch of 5G technology in early October was a grand milestone in the journey of Indian Telecom, and it is estimated that the same will contribute approximately \$450 bn to the Indian Economy in the period of 2023–2040. This would definitely provide a boost to our aspirations to become a USD 1 trillion digital economy by 2025.

In the month of October 2022, COAI also welcomed the proposed inclusion of OTT Communication Services in the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill 2022, recently released by DoT. In order to bring comprehensiveness and avoid any possible ambiguity, COAI is of the considered view that OTT Communication services need to be defined in the draft Telecom Bill, so as to uphold the principle of Same Service Same Rules with respect to OTT Communication Services, to ensure fair competition and a level playing field. While the industry welcomes adoption of new technologies and services by various players in the ecosystem; regulatory conditions and treatment must be made uniformly applicable for similarly placed players.

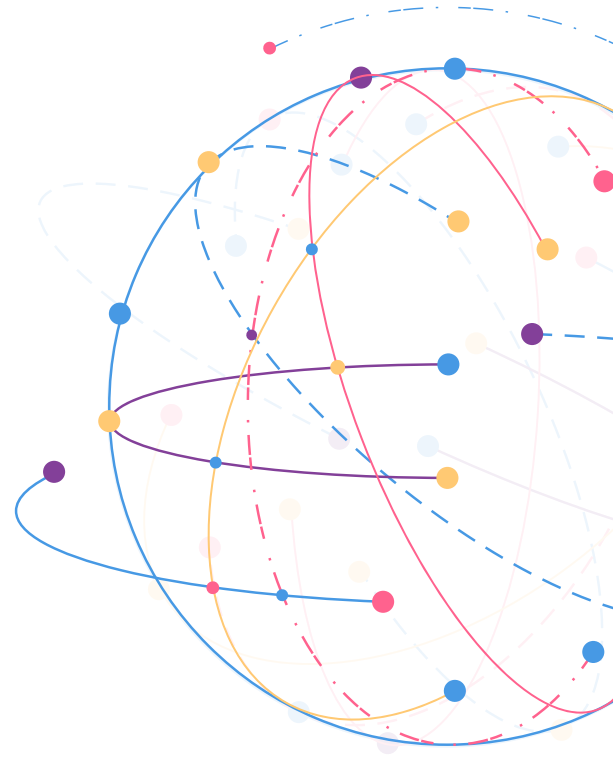
There have been some speculations and opinions based on misinformed views suggesting that this policy may not be applicable for OTT Communication services. Though these claims are being made on uncertain grounds and without true rationale, the fact remains that communication services such as voice/video calls and messaging, whether provided by the TSPs or the OTT Apps, operate on the same layer, essentially riding on the network (IP) layer, and thus, must be treated similarly, under the same regulatory conditions. With the country booming into the new area of digitalization, we really need to understand the benefits of instilling the principle of 'same rules for same services'.

Modern technology, especially in the rapidly evolving digital era today, needs modern laws, which is very much applicable on digital services offered, and we need to make a note and appreciate the government for acknowledging this. The DoT's transparent and open approach to consultation in the Draft Bill promotes inclusivity, while addressing several critical aspects of the digital ecosystem in the country. We are especially thankful to the Government for the legal backing provided for the Right of Way permissions, which has been the biggest hindrance in the roll-out of telecom services, including the coveted 5G. The government has taken giant strides towards the vision of having a digitally connected India and promoting innovations and R&D in the technology industry. We look forward to this continued progressive approach of the Government to facilitate a robust and world-class telecom infrastructure in the country, enabling the industry to help contribute towards the collective vision of a "Digital India".



COAI

Latest Updates:



Lawful Interception requirements

Multiple Law Enforcement Agencies and Government Authorized agencies are approaching Telecom Operators to provide 1:1 traffic and space for placing their equipment: - COAI has submitted a letter to DoT on 10th Oct 2022 in this regard. Vide this letter COAI has requested if all agencies, be it Law Enforcement Agencies or other Authorized agencies, could be asked to approach DOT and seek the traffic/Interception from CDOT setup, as our members have already provided 1:1 traffic to the CDOT setup. This solution would take care of the needs of the security agencies/authorized agencies without impacting user experience, and also would not put further financial burden on the operators. Such solution would further ensure confidentiality of the data.

Request for Extension of Timeline for responding to the TRAI CP on "Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in Telecommunication Sector"

COAI has submitted a letter to TRAI on 06th Oct 2022. Vide this letter we requested the Authority to kindly grant extension of at least 04 weeks, i.e., till 11th Nov 2022 for submitting the comments. TRAI has granted extension till 4th Nov 2022.

Reporting of major outages of network and submission of state-wise data for QoS Parameters to TRAI

COAI submitted a letter to TRAI on 20th Oct 2022. Vide this letter we are defining parameters basis which outage may be reported to TRAI. The letter suggests that major network outage leading to community isolation can be defined as per the parameters/criteria listed below:

- a) The site count of the major outages due to reasons like natural calamities is greater than 500 sites in a single incidence. And,
- b) All technologies of a TSP are down, which leads to service not available on either of the networks (like if both 4G and 2G are down or if both 5G and 4G are down in future). And,
- c) Outage duration is greater than 4 hours (for each of

such > 500 sites, on a given day).

Jt letter regarding Parameters for Internet Protocol Detail Record (IPDR) and SYS Log of Network Address Translation (NAT)

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 25th Oct 2022 requesting DoT to grant some more time to our members for implementation of the DoT instruction dated 16th Nov 2021 in this regard, and extend the deadline at least till 31st March 2023.

Draft Telecom Bill:

Draft Indian Telecommunication Bill 2022 was released by DoT, seeking inputs from relevant stakeholders. In this regard, COAI had shared draft response with the members. Further, a stakeholder meeting was held with the Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT on 21st October 2022. Subsequently, a revised draft response is under preparation and will be shared with members.

The last date to submit the response is 10th Nov 2022.

National Plan for distribution of Indian Standard Time to Licensed Service Providers of Department of Telecommunications

TEC issued a document on "National Plan for distribution of Indian Standard Time to Licensed Service Providers of Department of Telecommunications" on the requirement of accurate timing & framework on distribution of timing signals for synchronization of telecom Networks. Inputs/comments on the framework of the distribution and deployment plan provided has been sought by TEC. In this regard, inputs were sought from Members, and the same have been received from VIL & Cisco. Inputs from other members are awaited.

TASSCOM

DoT had directed M/s Ramboll to update the 5G BTS/site details in the portal. In this regard, the same is being developed to seek the approval of the CLC.

Compliance Requirements for EMF Exposure

To expedite the 5G roll outs across the country, COAI sent a letter to DoT requesting to Put in Abeyance the Compliance Requirements for EMF Exposure for 12 months. In this regard, a letter was issued from DoT on 4th Oct 2022 regarding extension of timeline of self-certification in upgradation cases. Timeline of submission of self-certificates for new BTSs and upgradation has been extended to 15.04.2023.

Internet Resilience Roadmap (IRR)

COAI submitted comments to DoT on 13th Oct 2022 on various issues related to IRR. COAI on its response on IRR highlighted following points:

1. Business continuity plan for Internet resilience
2. Policies initiatives required and expected to tackle internet resilience issues
3. Issues pertaining to cable landing station, laying and repairing of submarine cables
4. Issues w.r.t terrestrial connections

Sharing of the Opt-ins/supporting documents to the complaints closed on the grounds of Service Messages & Not a UCC by the TSPs

This is with reference to the issue of providing information on Opt-in/supporting documents to the complaints closed on the grounds of Service Messages & Not a UCC for the period from QE Sep 2020 to Dec 2021. In this regard, COAI submitted a letter to TRAI requesting to allow TSPs to submit the sample information of the Opt-ins for each quarter starting from QE Sept 2020 considering the volume of the said information, and consider initiating the discussion with the TSPs along with said sample size opt-ins, from first week of November 2022 onwards.

Dealer Possession License-related challenges

A letter was submitted to DoT on 14th Oct 2022 with reference to simplifying the process related to Dealer Possession License-related challenges faced by our OEM members.

Regarding issuance of guidelines for Numbers activated and deactivated within a given calendar month

This is with reference to the MH LSA letter dated 06.09.2022, regarding issuance of guidelines for Numbers activated and deactivated within a given calendar month. In this regard, draft letter was shared with members wherein okay was received from Jio. Inputs are awaited from other members.

Committee on the apportionment/sharing of frequency bands 37-43.5 GHz, 47.2-48.2 GHz and 66-71 GHz

Meeting was held on 14th Oct (online) of the Committee constituted to study the apportionment/sharing of frequency bands 37-43.5 GHz, 47.2-48.2 GHz and 66-71 GHz.

In this regard, a report of the Committee was shared by DoT. All our members have given their okay to finalise the report.

Meeting with GSMA

The COAI-GSMA Webinar on Mid-band spectrum is scheduled to be held on 15th November 2022. A meeting was held with GSMA on 14th Oct 2022, following which a note, tentative program and a draft letter to the Chief Guest has been prepared.

One day 5G Capacity Building Conference

On the request of Secretary telecom, states have started holding one day conference on 5G capacity building, wherein 5G use cases are showcased to all state government departments, creating awareness about the potential of 5G and working closely with the eco-system (TSPs, startups etc.) for common good of the citizens of the state. Conferences already happened in Delhi and AP (Vijawada). Manipur (Imphal), West Bengal (Kolkata) and Chhattisgarh (Raipur) are in pipeline.

Meeting with UD Secretary, Delhi

An industry meeting was held on 19.10.2022 under the Chairmanship of UD Secretary, Delhi along with Nodal officers of concerned Departments for Inventorisation of Street Furniture and development of application form for 5G roll-out.

COAI meeting with Shri Nitin Sangwan, IAS, Director (ICT & e-Governance) Gujarat

Basis COAI's submission, a meeting was held with Director DST, Gujarat on 15.10.2022 regarding policy implementation issues faced by our members from the Municipal Corporation, GIDC and other Self Governing bodies.

2nd Chandigarh UT Broadband meeting

2nd Chandigarh UT Broadband meeting was held on 28.10.2022 under the Chairmanship of Shri Dharam Pal (Advisor to Administrator) to discuss the RoW related issues.

2nd Ladakh UT Broadband meeting

2nd Ladakh UT Broadband meeting was held on 11.10.2022 under the Chairmanship of Shri Umang Narula (Advisor to Hon'ble Lt. Governor) to discuss RoW related issues in the region. COAI requested for alignment of LCCIR-20 with RoW (Amendment) 2022, allowing Open Access for Telecom Towers and adoption of Model Building Byelaws 2022.

Jharkhand 1st meeting of Working Committee for 5G roll-out

1st Meeting of the Working group for 5G roll-out was held on 14.10.2022 to work out modalities for the use of Government Infrastructure/Street Furniture for faster 5G roll-out.

COAI requested for alignment of Jharkhand RoW policy with RoW (Amendment) 2022, Provision for Bulk permission, Priority EB connection and adoption of Model Building Byelaws 2022.

Letter submitted to Secretary Member, DPCC

A letter was submitted to Secretary Member, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) requesting to permanently include telecom towers in the exclusion list to use DG sets for the continuity of telecommunication services, if GRAP is implemented in National Capital Region.

Request for Implementation of RoW amendments

Letters were sent to Chief Secretaries of States requesting them to implement the RoW amendments issues on 17th Aug 2022 by GoI. Various charges which can be levied falling under three broad category – administrative charges, restoration charges wherever applicable – upper limit capped as per CPWD/State PWD rates and Compensation i.e. usage / rental charges – for use of street furniture from the owning authority. These amendments are necessary to be adopted by state governments for faster and smoother roll out of newer technologies like 5G. There are many other facilitative procedures adopted in the amendment for faster and smoother deployment of telecom infra.

Poor Coverage in Vijayawada Airport

COAI wrote to Chief Secretary, Govt of Andhra Pradesh on 27th Sep 2022, regarding the poor coverage in Vijayawada Airport. The issue for high charges and lack of ownership in deciding the grant of permission is delaying the resolution, adversely impacting the telecom experience of the citizens, users.

Request to ACS GoR regarding the Rolling out of 5G

A letter was written to Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan on 21st Sep 2022, regarding Rolling Out of 5G services and enhancing Digital Infrastructure in the State.

2nd SBC –Tamil Nadu

2nd SBC of Tamil Nadu was conducted on 21st Oct 2022, chaired by Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu. Major issues of Regularization, Permission for Poles for Aerial OFC, etc were taken up.

4th SBC Meghalaya–

The 4th SBC of Meghalaya was chaired by Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya. Issues pertaining to 5G deployment were discussed. COAI represented the issues currently being faced by members and sought urgent attention towards adoption of the RoW 2022 amendments.

New Draft RoW policies issued

Assam and Tripura fresh RoW guidelines draft was issued for industry consultation. COAI worked with members to identify the clauses and paras which will hinder the growth of telecom in the state and suggested suitable amendments as part of feedback submission.

Wireless licensing reforms to enable ease of doing business, faster network rollouts: COAI

The Cellular Operators Association of India on Thursday said that the wireless licensing reforms will help in ease of doing business for the telecom sector and faster deployment of network and services to the end users. [Read more](#)



Cellular operators association lauds reforms in Telecom and Satcom sectors

The wireless licensing reforms announced by the government will help in ease of doing business by reducing compliances while facilitating faster rollout of networks and services. [Read more](#)



5G to be a road map for the socio-economic development: COAI

We are excited about the long-awaited 5G launch in India. Telecom operators are geared up to provide high-speed services that are poised to transform consumer experience. [Read more](#)



COAI says OTT players should be brought under ambit of Telecom Act

The Cellular Operator Association of India (COAI) on Tuesday said OTT (over the top) players should be brought under the ambit of the new Telecom Act to maintain level playing fields. [Read more](#)





COAI

News Wires:

OTT players are making huge money out of India's subscribers base says COAI

Telecom companies have long been demanding that OTT players like WhatsApp, Hike messengers should be brought under the same regulatory regime.

[Read more](#)



Must define OTT communication apps in Bill: Telcos

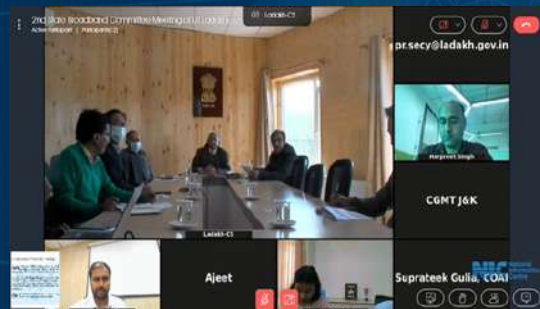
India's top telecom operators have demanded that OTT communication services be clearly defined in the draft Telecom Bill in order to bring comprehensiveness and avoid any possible ambiguity. [Read more](#)



COAI Events

2nd UT Broadband Committee Meeting – Ladakh

COAI thanks Shri Umang Narula, IAS (Advisor to Hon'ble Lt. Governor) & DoT J&K LSA for conducting Ladakh's 2nd UT Broadband Committee meeting. Deliberations of the meeting will play a significant role in resolving RoW issues and boost telecom infrastructure in Ladakh UT.



5G Use Cases Conference

COAI thanks Secretary IT, Delhi – Sh. Vivek Pandey and DG Telecom, DoT – Sh. Sanjeev Agrawal for organising “One Day Capacity Building Conference on 5G Use Cases”. The conference proceedings will support the early adoption of 5G across the NCT of Delhi.



2nd State Broadband Committee Meeting – Tamil Nadu

COAI thanks Dr. V. Irai Anbu, Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, for chairing the 2nd State Broadband Committee meeting. The discussions held in the meeting would ease sector-specific challenges and foster the development of robust telecom infrastructure in the state.



COAI Events

Telecom Reforms 2022

Congratulations and thanks to the Communications Ministry, Government of India on the release of Wireless Licensing and Satcom reforms, NFAP & Quantum Key Distribution Standards of TEC. The industry is looking forward to providing all support to the same for achieving our collective vision of 'Digital India'.





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