



**COAI**

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# I-DIGEST

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## LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

### Director General, COAI

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#### From DG's Desk

The mobile platform is already a huge and a massive technology platform in the history of mankind and has impactfully taken over all computing, digital modes that we have seen in our evolution, including computers. 5G is the biggest transformation that the society and industries will ever witness.

The sixth edition of the India Mobile Congress, 2022, saw a great involvement from the entire Telecom industry and their stakeholders. A revolutionary milestone was witnessed by around 130 crore Indians on 1st October 2022. It was a 4-day event which was inaugurated by the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The cumulative economic impact of 5G on India is estimated to reach USD 450 billion by 2035. 5G isn't an aspirational dream anymore rather the masses of the country can now use its benefit and see the power that it holds.

The government has repeatedly assured the masses that the 5G plans will be available at an economical and affordable price, encouraging more and more people to have an opportunity to use this privilege. No wonder this launch will have a significant impact in not just in the country but in the world. This is not just a digital India initiative but a vision to drive the New India.

We are honoured and thankful to our Hon'ble PM for launching first 5G services at IMC 2022. We are all excited and the telecom operators are geared up to provide the high-speed services to transform consumer experiences. With the goal of reaching a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, 5G is the road map for the socio-economic development and future prosperity of the nation.



# COAI

## Latest Updates:



### **Application of Incremental 0.5% SUC rate under Sharing of Spectrum**

COAI has submitted a letter to DoT on 30th Aug 2022. Vide this letter we Requested DoT that an incremental SUC rate of 0.5% of AGR should be applied only to the shared spectrum bands and not the entire spectrum holding.

### **Calling for information in respect of DLCs including VPN under section 12(1) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997**

COAI has submitted a letter to TRAI on 05th Sep 2022 stating that due to competition, DLC tariffs are well below the prescribed ceiling. Hence TRAI should not ask for data and not do consultation at present stage.

### **Allowing denominations in multiple of Rs. 10 for Special Tariff Vouchers/Combo Vouchers & Plan Vouchers**

COAI has submitted a letter to TRAI on 19th Sep 2022. Vide this letter we requested TRAI to allowing denominations in multiple of Rs. 10 for STVs, CVs and PVs and withdrawal of color coding of vouchers.

### **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 01st Sep 2022. Vide this letter, we have Requested for Extension of Timeline to responding on this TRAI CP. Based on the request from COAI, TRAI has extended the timeline for submitting comments latest by 14th Oct 2022.

### **COAI response to the TRAI CP on “Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees”**

COAI has submitted the response on this CP to TRAI on 07th Sep 2022. In our response we appreciated the reforms introduced on 15th September 2021, wherein the Govt. has reduced BGs by 80%. We highlighted that the Government has recently taken another progressive step and has removed Bank Guarantees for registration of Other Service Providers (OSPs), Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOAs) and In-Flight and Maritime

Connectivity Authorisations. In light of the same we requested TRAI that ideally the **practice of the Bank Guarantees in various Licensees/Authorizations should be done away with.**

### **COAI response to the TRAI CP on “Embedded SIM for M2M Communications”**

COAI has submitted the response on this CP to TRAI on 20th Sep 20. We stated that with the successful completion of auctions and the deployment of 5G in India, industry may witness several use cases of 5G across various industry verticals. Machine-to-Machine (M2M) Communications and Internet of things (IoT) will present a huge opportunity to the Indian businesses and the Government to leverage various benefits and enhance efficiency. In light of the same, the consultation paper issued by TRAI on Embedded SIM for M2M Communications is very timely. We submitted several proposals for having in place a conducive policy framework for adoption of Embedded SIM for M2M Communications in India.

### **TASSCOM**

- The #7th TASSCOM Meeting was held on 12th September 2022 wherein DoT requested ‘Addition of new fields’ to be provisioned in the Tarang Sanchar portal.
- In this regard, meeting was held with member TSPs & M/s Ramboll (vendor) and it was suggested that a separate web page will be created with separate login details for the additional data fields linked to the Tarang Sanchar Portal.
- Further, a meeting was held with DoT on 20th Sep 2022 to discuss/ deliberate on the matter and the Action items emerged from the meeting was shared with members.
- M/s Ramboll & COAI to work on various requirements agreed in the meeting in DoT.

### **Subscriber verification**

- This is regarding the activity of updating the end-user details for existing bulk connections by the TSPs as per the Directions of DoT.

- b) In this regard, members had asked COAI to seek extension from DoT till 31.03.2023 for complying with updation of end-user details of some of the remaining bulk connections at their end.
- c) COAI letter in this regard has been submitted to DoT on 22nd September 2022.

#### **Draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022**

- a) The draft Indian Telecommunications Bill 2022 was issued by the DoT for Public Consultation on 21st September 2022.
- b) The draft inputs/Comments are being prepared by COAI for submission to DoT.

#### **Compliance Requirements for EMF Exposure**

- a) In continuation to our recent letters, vide which COAI has requested DoT to defer the various compliance requirements related to EMF testing such as self-certification prior to launch, routine testing, site audit, etc., for both 5G shared sites or standalone sites, COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 19th Sep 2022 requesting to put in abeyance the compliance requirements for EMF Exposure for 12 months.
- b) COAI is following up with DoT for early issuance of the instructions in this regard.

#### **TCCCPR**

COAI Letter submitted to TRAI on 20th Sep 2022 seeking two weeks' time to revert on sharing of the Opt-in supporting documents sought by TRAI.

#### **Exemption of charge @ upto Rs.0.05 per SMS**

- a) This is w.r.t. the exemption of charges @ up-to Rs.0.05 per SMS on the service messages delivered from the headers as per the provisions of Telecom Commercial Communications Customers Preference Regulations, 2018.
- b) In this regard, COAI letter was submitted to TRAI on 27th Sep 2022 requesting them to provide the updated consolidated list of the Headers exempted from such charge with the TSPs, along with the expiry date for the exemption/date of the renewal and upload the list on the TRAI website.

#### **Note of RoW issues across Chandigarh**

A note on RoW issues faced by the industry was submitted to Chandigarh LSA on 09.09.2022 to request for an SBC meeting to be organised to discuss the industry issues.

#### **4th Delhi State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting**

Delhi SBC meeting was held on 13.09.2022 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Delhi to discuss the RoW issues faced by members. COAI requested for early notification of Delhi's RoW Policy for speedy roll-out of Telecom Infrastructure across the capital of the country.

#### **Meeting with IT Secretary, Delhi**

An industry meeting was held on 23.09.2022 under the Chairmanship of IT Secretary, Delhi along with Delhi LSA to expedite the pending permissions across Delhi.

#### **Meeting with PWD, Delhi for 5G Roll-out**

Four meetings were held on 14.09.2022, 23.09.2022, 27.09.2022 and 04.10.2022 with PWD, GSDL, Delhi, State Govt. officials and Delhi LSA officials for the development of Portal for inventorization of Land and building available for 5G Telecom Infra deployment, application process, payment gateway, etc. across Delhi.

#### **Development of Call before You Dig (CuBD)**

COAI is working with NBM team, DoT for the development and the launch of CuBD application. This application will be useful for the better planned deployment of 5G technology by mapping of utilities across India. Feedbacks of members were shared with NBM team, DoT for the same. COAI is further coordinating with the members for the creation of "State Level" and "District Level" asset owners by members.

#### **Letter to Chief Secretary, Rajasthan on RoW Issues**

COAI letter was submitted to the Chief Secretary, Rajasthan was written on 04.09.2022 to request for support from the State Govt. for adoption of industrial Electricity rates for Electricity Bills of Telecom Infrastructure, rationalisation of Pole Charges and to seek permission to use Govt Lands and building.

#### **Letter to Principal Secretary (IT), Tamil Nadu on RoW Issues**

COAI letter was submitted to Principal Secretary (IT), Tamil Nadu on 15.09.2022 regarding to seek his support in resolving the current challenges which are adversely impacting telecom rollout across Tamil Nadu and requesting for an in-person meeting to discuss the same. Some of the RoW issues highlighted in the letter are issues in getting permissions for the deployment of Aerial OFC across Chennai, Regularization of Telecom Towers, absence of online payment facility, etc.

#### **Letter from IT Dept., Nagaland regarding safety & Security of Telecom Infrastructure**

Based on COAI's submission and follow-ups, IT Department of Nagaland has issued a letter stating that they are in process to issue further necessary directions for safety and security of Telecom Infrastructure. Members were requested to kindly share specific incidents of threats/obstructions/manhandling faced during deployment of Digital Infrastructure across Nagaland to support our request. Inputs are awaited from members on the same.

#### **Odisha SBC meeting**

Odisha SBC meeting was held on 26.09.2022 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Odisha to discuss the RoW issues faced by members.

#### **Meeting with IT Secretary, Odisha**

Odisha SBC meeting was held on 22.09.2022 under the IT Secretary, Odisha to discuss the RoW issues faced by members like inclusion of Deemed approval clause, online portal, etc.



## **2nd State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Ladakh**

2nd SBC meeting of Ladakh was held under the Chairmanship of Administrator of Ladakh on 11.10.2022. It was highlighted to amend LCCIR-2020 with the RoW (Amendment) Rules, 2022 and COAI requested to allow Telco's to aggregate their electricity demands across number of towers using OA.

## **Enhancement of Telecom Network – FIFA U-17, 11th –30th October 2022**

The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup will kick off its 7th edition on October 11, 2022. The 2022 tournament is being hosted by India. India will play all their games at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa and the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai are the remaining venues that will host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022. COAI coordinated with the members, LSA officials, Sports Authority, etc. for the network requirement for the Enhancement of Telecom Network during the FIFA U-17 tournament.

## **COAI submission to Principal Secretary (UDH), Rajasthan**

COAI's submission was done to Principal Secretary (UDH), Rajasthan on 21.09.2022 regarding Rolling Out of 5G services and enhancing Digital Infrastructure in the State of Rajasthan.

## **COAI submission to Secretary DST, Gujarat**

COAI's submission was done to Secretary DST, Gujarat for Policy Implementation issues on 18.09.2022. Further mail has been marked to Shri Nitin Sangwan, IAS, Director (ICT & e-Governance). This with reference to the members ask for a meeting to resolve RoW issues.

## **EMF Awareness Webinars by West Bengal LSA**

COAI supported West Bengal LSA to organise EMF Awareness Webinars on 23.09.2022 and 30.09.2022 at Kolkata and Sikkim respectively. Over 100 participants including officials from State Govt, IT Department, Police officials, industry, etc. participated in the each webinar. The expert panel answered the queries raised by the participants.

## **COAI Submission to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra**

COAI submitted a letter to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra requesting him to grant a meeting with Industry to discuss the issues pertaining to the Roll-Out of Telecom Infrastructure in the State of Maharashtra.

## **Submission of Unaudited/Audited AGR documents and related documents in SARAS**

There was a need for parallel physical submissions of financial compliance documents, such as Unaudited/Audited AGR Statements, Audited Annual Accounts, Deduction claims documents (including Claim Sheets, bank statements, invoices, TDS certificates etc.)

**During the meeting, post discussion, Member (F) agreed that the physical submissions of the following documents would not be required for Q3 of FY 2022-23 and onwards.**

- a) Unaudited/ Audited AGR Statements (Statement of Revenue and License Fee)
- b) Audited Reconciliation Statement
- c) Audited Annual Accounts
- d) Payment Proofs including GAR-6/GAR-7 and Affidavit

**This will help in ease doing compliances.**

## **Alignment of Formats given in SoP and SARAS – (variations in AO/AG/PP/IR sheets in DVR SOP vis-a-vis SARAS/previous orders)**

Member TSPs have submitted AO, AG, and other claim sheets for Q1, Q2 and Q3 for FY 2021-22 in the original formats prior to the issue of SoP dt.10-05-2022. It was difficult for them to revise the same and submit claim sheets in new formats. There was also variation in a few Claim Sheet formats in SARAS and SOP. The exercise of preparing Claim sheets in different formats is quite burdensome for TSPs.

**DoT has clarified that the variations in format of AO/AG/IR sheets in the DVR SOP of May 2022 vis-à-vis formats of the same in SARAS, are not significant and the AO/AG/IR sheets as implemented in SARAS are appropriate for submissions. This is also a big relief as members will not be required to submit documents again for the previous period in revised format.**

# COAI

## News Wires:

### COAI terms draft telecom bill 'reformatory'

In keeping the recent trend of reformatory policy making by the government, this draft Indian Telecommunication bill is another milestone step to develop a modern and future ready legal framework in telecommunication. [Read more](#)



### Telecom association demands 'converged' law for various digital services

The telecom industry body was responding to a DoT consultation paper, which aims at reviewing the existing legal and regulatory provisions governing telecommunications. [Read more](#)



### How will 5G rollout impact Indians?

We spoke to DG COAI immediately after India's 5G spectrum auctions to get some insights about the telecommunications industry and its 5G rollout roadmap. [Read more](#)





# COAI

## News Wires:

### COAI Talks about Private Networks, 5G, 6G and more

DG COAI talked with TelecomTalk about the challenges that telecom operators are going to face while rolling 5G and more. [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 the high-speed services that are poised to transform consumer experience. [Read more](#)





# COAI Events

## State Broadband Committee Meeting – DoT Sikkim

COAI thanks DOT Sikkim, DOT West Bengal LSA, and Power dept, Sikkim Govt for organising a meeting to discuss issues hindering the roll-out of digital infrastructure. This will enable effective implementation of the National Broadband Mission & the proliferation of broadband in Sikkim.



## 6th Edition of the 5G India 2022 International Conference

5G is a different technology, not just an upgrade from 4G. It will bring more value to the ecosystem than ever before and can accommodate a large number of subscribers: DG, Dr. Lt. Gen. S P Kochhar at the 6th edition of the 5G India 2022 international conference.



## Telecom Leadership Forum- 5G Voice & Data

Valuable insights emerges at the TLF India 5G organized by Voice and Data during the fireside chat on "5G; After the auctions" between DG, Lt. Gen. Dr. S P Kochhar, Sameer Vuyyuru, and Rashim Kapoor.



# COAI Events

## DIPA Annual flagship Event

Discussing ROW (Right of Way) related issues & policies on street furniture, Lt. Gen. Dr. S P Kochhar moderated the session at DIPA Annual Flagship Event "Gati Shakti Vision for 5G & Beyond" along with Sh. Sanjai Kumar, Rail Tel, Sh. Sibin C, IAS, & Sh. Robert Sharma, Director, IT, Manipur.



## West Bengal LSA – EMF Awareness Webinars

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), West Bengal License Service Area (LSA) organized two awareness webinars on "EMF Emissions and Telecom Towers" at Kolkata and Sikkim. These sessions were 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.



## India Mobile Congress 2022

One of the biggest telecom events of the year was held in Pragati Maidan from 1st – 4th October 2022- India Mobile Congress. The event witnessed around 1 lac attendees varying from students, media, CEOs, Government officials, delegates, visitors, etc. Ushering in a new technological era, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched 5G services in India. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the sixth edition of the India Mobile Congress and also witnessed the IMC Exhibition that was put on the occasion.

DG, COAI, Lt. Gen. Dr. S P Kochhar was part of panel discussions at the event talking about Digital Economy, and development in the telecom sector while also discussing the characteristics of 5G and how it will benefit various industries.







## Contact Us

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