



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

As the horizon of telecom technology broadens, the aspects of sustainable growth and comprehensive inclusion become crucial pillars. In this era of rapid technological advancements, it's essential that we approach the new wave with a perspective that's not only focused on connectivity but also on creating a green and sustainable telecom landscape.

Our perspective of 6G technology, even as we are in the middle of the 5G evolution, is a testament to our commitment to staying ahead of the curve. The promise of 6G, with its potentially unparalleled speeds and efficiencies, can offer new avenues for digital innovations. While we are progressing on the standards front, it may be prudent to also start working on developing 6G applications, to strengthen our leadership in the global arena. At the same time, the introduction of such sophisticated technologies makes it imperative for us to consider their environmental footprints.

Green telecom ensures that as we leapfrog into newer technological realms, we do so responsibly, considering the environment. The reduction of energy consumptions, utilization of renewable energy sources and innovative solutions like hydrogen fuel cells, and minimizing e-waste are aspects that need attention. As we roll out expansive networks, it's vital to ensure that we leave behind a minimal ecological impact.

With the increasing consumption of digital content, Over-The-Top (OTT) services have become an integral part of the Indian digital landscape. While we advocate for inclusion of definition of OTTs under the telecom bill, we also firmly emphasize on creating a 'fair share' system where these services contribute an equitable share towards helping the sector develop, manage and upgrade the telecom infrastructure. A well-defined regulatory framework for OTT will ensure a level playing field, promoting healthy competition and better services for consumers, while ensuring a sustainable future for the telecom sector and the highly strained network infrastructure.

The TRAI recommendations for enhancing digital connectivity in the North-East region of India signifies progress in bringing every Indian into the digital fold and ensuring that the digital wave reaches the remotest corners of our nation. We've seen the transformative power of connectivity, and it's time the North-East experiences the same in its full glory.

While 5G deployments are progressing at rapid pace with efforts of the industry, the issues regarding making 5G available in and near airports remains a challenge for the sector. While we aim for ubiquitous connectivity, such undue restrictions based on unsubstantiated concerns adversely impact the nation's digital connectivity objectives. While we support the need for safety of our aviation sector, the proposed requirements need to be backed by credible scientific evidence and based on verified international precedents. Since it is evident that the practical and imperative solution for this issue is the replacement of the non-conforming Radio Altimeters with the requisitely calibrated equipment, the aircraft carriers and DGCA must act in an expedited manner to do so within a strict deadline, post which all buffer related restrictions across the impacted areas must be removed urgently.

As we embrace the future with 5G and beyond, it's paramount to do so responsibly, sustainably and inclusively. We remain committed to working hand-in-hand with the government, local authorities and industry partners to make this vision a reality for every Indian.



COAI

Latest Updates

TRAI Consultation Paper on "Regulatory Mechanism for Over-The-Top (OTT) Communication Services, and Selective Banning of OTT Service"

COAI submitted our response to TRAI on 01.09.2023 stating the need for OTT Service Providers to be brought under Regulatory Framework, pay Fair Share Charge to TSPs as well as be liable to selective banning under the necessary regulation. Counter Comments were submitted on 27.09.2023 where we reiterated our stance on OTT Service Providers to be brought under Regulatory framework and pay Fair Share Charge.

TRAI Consultation Paper on Review of Quality-of-Service Standards for Access Services (Wireless and Wireline) and Broadband (Wireless and Wireline) Services

TRAI released the Consultation Paper on 18.08.2023 with the last date for submission of response on 20.09.2023. We submitted a letter of extension to TRAI on 06.09.2023 for which the extension was granted till 11.10.2023. However, since the impact of the CP is far-reaching and requires further deliberation by members on the issue with various internal and external stakeholders, another letter was submitted on 27.09.2023 seeking further extension.

TRAI Quality of Service (Code of Practice for Metering and Billing Accuracy) Regulation, 2023

TRAI released regulation on Quality of Service (Code of Practice for Metering and Billing Accuracy) Regulation on 13.09.2023.

TRAI Consultation Paper on Digital Inclusion in the Era of Emerging Technologies

TRAI released Consultation Paper on Digital Inclusion in the era of Emerging Technology on 14.09.2023. The dates for submission of Comments are 16.10.2023 and Counter Comments by 31.10.2023.

TRAI Recommendation on Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees

TRAI released the Recommendation of Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees on 19.09.2023. TRAI has reduced Entry fee by 50%. However, TRAI did not reduce the Bank Guarantees, but it merged PBG and FBG.

Include RF Mesh as Low Power Wide Area Network (LPWAN) and bring under Unified License Services

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 19.09.2023 requesting them for including RF Mesh as LPWAN and bring it under UL.

Final Draft of Addendum to TEC Test Procedure for Measurement of Electromagnetic Fields from Base Station Antenna

The TEC modified Final Draft Addendum shared vide its email dated 24th August 2023. In this regard, COAI submitted its comments to TEC on 01.09.2023.

Safety measures regarding C band radio-altimeter vs. 5G/IMT base stations

This is with reference to the Joint Working Group constituted with members from DOT, TSPs, DGCA and Airlines manufacturers to evaluate requirement of safety and buffer zone in vicinity of airports after detailed technical consideration. In this regard, COAI submitted its letter to the Ministry of Civil Aviation on 04.09.2023.

Issues related to NSDTS Trusted Telecom Portal and Phases

With reference to the NSDTS Trusted Telecom Portal. COAI submitted its letter to NSCS on 12.09.2023.

Allowing digital display of Information related to Specific Absorption Rate value and safety precautions in the Manufacturer's mobile handset booklet as per D/o Telecommunications OMs issued on January 25, 2012, and August 17, 2012

With reference to the email received from DoT on 22nd August 2023 on the above subject. COAI submitted its letter to DoT on 14.09.2023.

Provisioning of telecommunication services by Licensees through Franchisee, Agents, and Distributors {Point of Sale (PoS)}

With reference to the DoT circular dated 31.08.2023, vide which DoT had issued Instructions for Provisioning of telecommunication services by Licensees through Franchisee, Agents, and Distributors {Point of Sale (PoS)}. COAI submitted its letter highlighting its key concerns on 22.09.2023.

Amendment/addendum to existing instructions issued for adequate verification of customers and other subscriber verification related matter.

With reference to the DoT's recent Amendment/addendum to existing instructions issued on 31.08.2023 for adequate verification of customers and other subscriber verification-related matters. COAI submitted a letter to DoT highlighting its concern areas on 22.09.2023.



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Latest Updates

Draft technical report on "Television Broadcasting to Mobile Handheld Devices – Direct to Mobile (D2M) Broadcasting"

With reference to the TEC draft technical report on "Television Broadcasting to Mobile Handheld Devices – Direct to Mobile (D2M) Broadcasting. COAI submitted its inputs to TEC on 26.09.2023.

Request for Review of the current Indian EMF Norms and Testing Methodology in line with WHO Recommended ICNIRP 2020 guidelines.

With reference to the COAI Letter submitted earlier to DoT dated 24.08.2022 wherein COAI had requested for Need for Rationalization of EMF Exposure Norms and considering suggested changes in EMF compliance testing methodology. COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 29.09.2023 requesting for Review of the current Indian EMF Norms and Testing Methodology in line with WHO recommended ICNIRP 2020 guidelines.

Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecommunication Equipment (MTCTE)

COAI submitted a letter on September 25, 2023, to DoT requesting an extension on the date of Mandatory Certification of 32 products covered under Phases III and IV of the MTCTE from October 01, 2023, to January 01, 2024. In this regard, TEC has granted an extension to industry on these 32 products until January 01, 2024

Communication Security Certification (ComSec) Scheme:

A virtual meeting was conducted by the National Centre for Communication Security (NCCS) on September 22, 2023, under the leadership of a Senior DDG. This meeting involved representatives from OEMs, TSTLs, Academia, and TSPs to discuss and clarify the Security Certification of Telecom Equipment, Voluntary Security Certification (VSC) Scheme, and ITSAR clauses related to IP Router and Wi-Fi CPE. In this regard, COAI circulated a draft letter to members for final submission to NCCS.

DOT's Stakeholder discussion on creation of new HS code/product identifiers for telecom networking products:

COAI and members attended the DoT's stakeholder discussion on 25th August 2023, chaired by Shri R K Pathak, DDG (IC), DoT. MoM of this meeting was circulated among members. An internal meeting with Members was also called on 29th August 2023 to decide on further action by industry.

E-waste (Management) Rules, 2022- Implementation for Telecom Equipment:

- 1) COAI submitted a letter on August 10th, 2023, to MoEFCC highlighting various Industry's request for consideration.
- 2) A meeting with Shri Anand Kumar, Director, and Head of WM-III Division, CPCB was held on August 24th, 2023
- 3) In this regard, COAI submitted the Minutes of the Meeting to Shri Anand Kumar on September 13th, 2023.
- 4) COAI submitted an extension letter to CPCB for release of imported consignment of Producers of 106 EEE items from Customs, as the last circular had deadline till 31st August 2023.
- 5) In this regard, COAI has scheduled a meeting with Shri Anand Kumar, Director, CPCB on 06th October 2023.

TEC's G20 deliberation on Circular Economy in Telecommunication Sector:

As COAI is part of the Committee and Sub-Committee for Circular Economy in Telecommunication Sector's Draft Policy and Action Plan documents. In August, there were two meetings held in this regard and a recommendation document has been formulated for consideration and comments of industry members.

New Member Joining – ACES India Private Limited has joined COAI as a New Associate Member.

ACES is Neutral Host Operator in Saudi Arabia with Wholesale infrastructure license from CITC and in India with UL/VNO Category B license from DoT. The company services demand for IBS infrastructure (In-Building Solutions) from telecom operators along with offering cost effective IBS networks capable of accommodating several mobile operators, thus improving the quality of service along with reducing the investment costs of telecom operators. In addition, the Neutral host business also targets small cells, Smart parking, Fiber OSP, IoT, Wi-Fi & Integrated Security Systems.

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

Digital India Dialogue was held on 20.09.2023 chaired by Shri. Rajeev Chandrashekar, MoS for Electronics & IT. The outcome of the meeting is as follows:

- a. The draft Rules will be published by MeitY in 4-6 weeks' time.
- b. In the next 30 days, the Rules will be formulated & the Data Protection Board will be set-up.
- c. Industry to provide justification for time required to transition from the current regime to the new regime.
- d. The following categories such as Govt. departments, MSME's will have more time to implement the provisions and the Rules under DPDP Act.
- e. No exemption will be granted to any Data Fiduciary by default or if it is being regulated by the Sector specific regulators like RBI etc.



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Latest Updates

- COAI made a submission to Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal on 27th September 2023 seeking an appointment to discuss Industry issues and seeking support on deployment of telecom infra for enhanced communication services in the state.
- COAI made submissions to all States/UTs for adoption of latest amendment 2023 of DoT Right of Way Rules, thereby further facilitating the telecom infra rollout. The States/UTs which have still not adopted RoW 2022 amendment, were requested again to notify the same at the earliest.
- DOT LSA Delhi organized an EMF awareness event at Noida on 17th September 2023. The event attended by residents/RWA were enlightened with the technical aspects by DoT. An expert medical expert allayed myths around EMF and cleared health related doubts of the audience.
- 6th State Broadband Committee of Assam was held on 26th September 2023 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Assam. Discussions took place regarding industry issues during the meeting COAI participated in and highlighted the important actions desired for facilitating telecom infra deployment in the state.
- NBM conducted an online meeting of the industry, for the State of Maharashtra to discuss the RoW pendencies on 11th Sep 2023. COAI coordinated with its members for full attendance and active participation. Key actions were deliberated for faster improvement in the overall pendency.
- 5G Working Committee Meeting of Telangana State was convened on 12th Sep 2023. The meeting was chaired by the Principal Secretary (IT). COAI participated and raised issues concerning the members, including high charges in the current state policy for installation of small cell.
- An in-person meeting was organized by Principal Secretary (IT), Govt of Maharashtra on 15th Sep 2023. All aspects related to challenges and tendencies in RoW were discussed. Representatives of members attended offline and COAI participated online.
- A member meeting over VC was held by COAI on 29th September 2023, for aligning members approach for the forthcoming Committee meeting being organized by UDD, Govt of Rajasthan on 3rd October 2023 to deliberate the important challenges being faced by the industry for 5G deployment in the state.
- A submission was made to Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra on 5th September 2023, requesting industry to discuss important RoW related issues. Local representatives of members are supporting in getting suitable time from his office.
- A submission to Chairman TERC, Telangana was made on 23rd Sep 2023 regarding Green Open Access. This was part of the exercise to submit suggestions and objections to the draft issued by TERC.
- COAI letters were submitted on 3rd Sep 2023 to relevant DISCOMs of States of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and UP for providing Uninterrupted Power Supply in Delhi NCR once GRAP is implemented. This action was part of series of activities COAI did post issuance of DG usage restrictions directions by CAQM.
- A submission was made on 03rd Sep 2023 to CEO Greater Noida Authority, as part of follow up of the industry in-person meeting with the new CEO. The letter reiterated various RoW challenges faced in the Greater Noida area and sought support from the authority for resolution of the same.
- A submission was made on 03rd Sep 2023 to Chairperson CAQM for an in-person industry meeting to discuss the industry plea on the DG usage restrictions. With the support of Delhi LSA, industry met Member Secretary CAQM and held detailed discussions on various issues being faced by members to implement CAQM directions. Post industry meeting a submission was made on 27th Sep 2023. CAQM has given extension of 3 months through a fresh direction on 29th September 2023.
- 5th meeting of Daman and Diu & Dadra and Nagar Haveli UT Broadband Committee was held on 08th September 2023. COAI highlighted adoption of RoW Amendment 2022 and 2023, and support regarding Composite Billing, Industrial Tariff, etc.
- Himachal Pradesh State Level Committee meeting for 5G telecom services under the chairmanship of Secretary (Digital Technologies and Governance) was held on 12th Sep 2023. COAI highlighted various support regarding adoption of RoW Amendment 2022 and 2023, Composite Billing, Industrial Tariff, etc.
- A meeting on Digital Infrastructure deployment related issues was held on 12th and 13th September 2023 for All States/UT under the chairmanship of DG (Telecom) and DDG (NBM) to discuss the RoW pendency and other RoW related issues. COAI and members participated, highlighting the current challenges being faced by the industry in each of the State / UT.
- A Gujarat CCC meeting was held 08th Sep 2023 to discuss the RoW related issues in GIDC. A joint submission to Chairman (GIDC) was done on 29th Sep 2023 related to installation and regularization of Mobile Towers in areas under GIDC.



COAI

Latest Updates

- An outreach programme by DPCC was organized on 27th September 2023, with important stakeholders for abatement of air pollution for sensitization on key issues affecting air quality and various policy directives/ order of Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region and Adjoining areas. COAI participated and raised the industry concern on the CAQM restriction on DG usage getting implemented from 1st October 2023.
- A meeting through VC was held among the core members on current issues being faced by the industry and prioritizing actions on 12th September 2023. One of the actions decided was to have a meeting with NBM for support on certain issues. The meeting with NBM was held on 18th September 2023, wherein the Mission Director conveyed his willingness to take up the important industry issues with the concerned authorities, states. The NBM team also wanted to seek members' support in providing good network connectivity for the upcoming Hydro Electric Dam site of NHPC in Arunachal Pradesh.
- An industry meeting was chaired by DGT on the DG restriction issue on 5th September 2023. DoT heard the challenges and post subsequent meetings with NBM team, a formal submission for support was made to NBM. NBM wrote to CAQM to consider the industry requests being essential services.
- An industry meeting was chaired by TRAI Chairman upon COAI's request, on the DG restriction issue on 21st September 2023. Senior TRAI officials heard the challenges and deliberated post subsequent meetings with NBM team, a formal submission for support was made to NBM. NBM wrote to CAQM to consider the industry requests being essential services.
- Meeting of State Broadband Committee of Uttarakhand was held on 26th September 2023 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary. Discussions took place regarding industry issues for facilitating telecom infra deployment in the state. During the meeting, COAI participated, a formal submission is planned on industry issues.
- A virtual meeting was held on 15th September 2023 with Noida International Airport (Jewar Airport) to discuss the way forward for removal/Lowering of Mast of the existing towers and other support requirements. Members participated and further action items were decided.
- A meeting was held under Chairman ship of Principal Secretary (IT) UP, at Lucknow on 19.09.2023. COAI participated through virtual mode, members were present physically in the meeting. Various telecom related subjects got discussed - USOF, 4G Saturation, CBuD, RoW, etc.
- DLTC meeting was called by DM (East Delhi) on 22nd September 2023. Various issues got discussed, members and COAI attended the meeting.

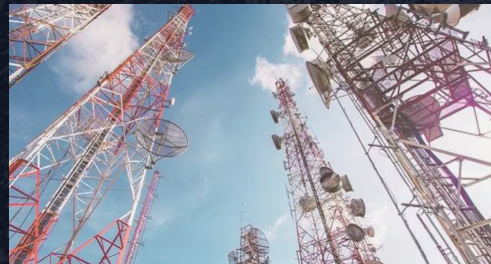


News Wires :

Simulated flights can end 5G signals dispute around airports, says COAI

To break the impasse over installing 5G radios in the 3.3-3.6 GHz band, also called the C band, near airports, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has told the government there should be controlled flight simulations to prove 5G signals do not interfere in controlling air-borne planes.

[Read more](#)



Transforming the telecom network

The convergence of automation and telecommunication networks marks a revolutionary phase in the history of networking technology. Automated networks, characterised by their ability to self-manage, adapt and optimise, are becoming the foundation for a new era of intelligent and dynamic communications systems.

[Read more](#)



Green Telecom Networks: Exploring Sustainability Through Non-conventional Power Sources

In our increasingly interconnected world, the telecommunications industry serves as the backbone of global connectivity. However, as the specter of climate change looms large, there is an urgent need to pivot towards more sustainable and eco-friendly practices.

[Read more](#)



Quantum computing and the future of encryption

The curious world of quantum mechanics plays host to quantum computers. Unlike traditional computers, quantum computers operate with qubits, the quantum version of classical bits. In a fascinating twist of quantum physics, qubits can be both a 0 and a 1 simultaneously due to a quantum property known as superposition.

[Read more](#)



News Wires :

Fair share: Aligning with the Digital India mission

"Some misconceptions emerge that a fair-share charge would go against the Net Neutrality principle. Through proper study of the concept, one would realise that Net Neutrality concerns unbiased treatment of content, and is completely unrelated to the proposed fair-share charge to be paid by OTTs to TSPs.

[Read more](#)



Understanding spectrum: Radio frequency, optical fiber and modulation techniques

RF communication primarily works by creating electromagnetic waves at a source and broadcasting them into the environment. These waves are then captured by a receiver and translated into usable information.

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Telcos urge 'fair share' contribution from OTT players

Telecom operators on Thursday have again urged the government to implement a revenue-sharing model or ensure a 'fair share' contribution from over-the-top (OTT) players. It also called for a higher revenue from larger OTT players

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Events

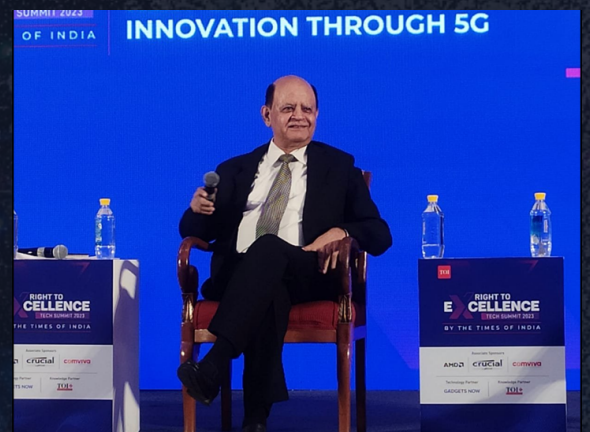
Voice&Data 5G+ conference: Telecom Leadership Forum (TLF)

The 5th edition of the Telecom Leadership Forum (TLF) organized by communication magazine Voice&Data. The conference delved into the changing technology landscape triggered by 5G, its challenges, sustainability aspects, and the potential of the upcoming 6G era. During his speech Lt. Gen. Dr. SP Kochhar Sir highlighted that by optimizing energy use, we can cut costs by up to 20% in just one year. The radio access network alone accounts for 70% of telcos' energy consumption – a key area for transformation. He also delivered a powerful message that with every data point, our carbon footprint and costs rise. This underscores the paramount importance of prioritizing green solutions. Let's make sustainability central to our digital journey



Right to Excellence- Tech Summit 2023 (TOI)

The Right To Excellence – Tech Summit 2023 by The Times of India was organized on 25th September 2023. The summit is driven by the belief that the democratization of technology is essential for the progress of societies and economies across the globe. During the panel discussion on “Next-Gen Connectivity: Innovation Through 5G”, Lt. Gen. Dr. S.P. Kochhar shared that, “Monetizing 5G will rely on a variety of apps, not solely a ‘killer app.’ High-quality networks are essential to harness #5G’s potential. Collaboration and cost-sharing among stakeholders are imperative. As we move towards 6G, with even more advanced applications looming, it’s crucial to commence app development early for global leadership”.





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