



**COAI**

ISSUE  
AUGUST 2025

# I-DIGEST

Connecting the World

---

News for you,  
information that matters



[www.coai.in](http://www.coai.in)

# CONTENT

- ③ From DG's Desk
- ④ COAI Latest Updates
- ⑥ News Wires
- ⑦ COAI Dialogues





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

Director General, COAI

### From DG's Desk

August 2025 has been a defining month for India's telecommunications sector as COAI continued its advocacy for critical policy reforms while addressing emerging challenges that underscore the urgent need for regulatory harmonization. COAI's consistent focus on creating a fair, secure and sustainable digital ecosystem has gained significant momentum, particularly in light of escalating cybersecurity threats and infrastructure challenges.

COAI highlighted two critical policy imperatives in August. First, COAI reiterated its firm position on persistent SIM-binding for OTT communication apps, a crucial security measure that demands immediate regulatory attention. We advocated that all OTT communication platforms should maintain continuous binding with verified mobile SIMs throughout their operational lifecycle. The current practice allows these applications to function independently once the original SIM card is removed, creating significant security vulnerabilities and enabling untraceable criminal activities. This regulatory gap compromises national security and facilitates cyber frauds, making it imperative to establish persistent authentication mechanisms that ensure traceability and accountability.

COAI also strongly opposed direct spectrum allocation to enterprises, emphasizing that such networks should be deployed exclusively through licensed telecom service providers via spectrum leasing or network slicing. COAI highlighted that direct allocation could undermine national security, reduce government revenues and create an uneven competitive landscape.

Certain challenges were also faced by COAI. The Hyderabad cable cuts crisis presented a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities facing India's digital infrastructure. Despite clear directives from the Telangana High Court prohibiting unauthorized cutting of optical fiber cables, TGSPDCL workers continued these illegal activities, causing widespread internet disruptions across areas. COAI emphasized that telecom connectivity is not merely a service but a fundamental right in today's digital economy. The indiscriminate cutting of optical fiber cables, which carry no electricity and pose no safety risks, demonstrated a concerning lack of coordination between utility providers and highlighted the need for comprehensive infrastructure protection protocols.

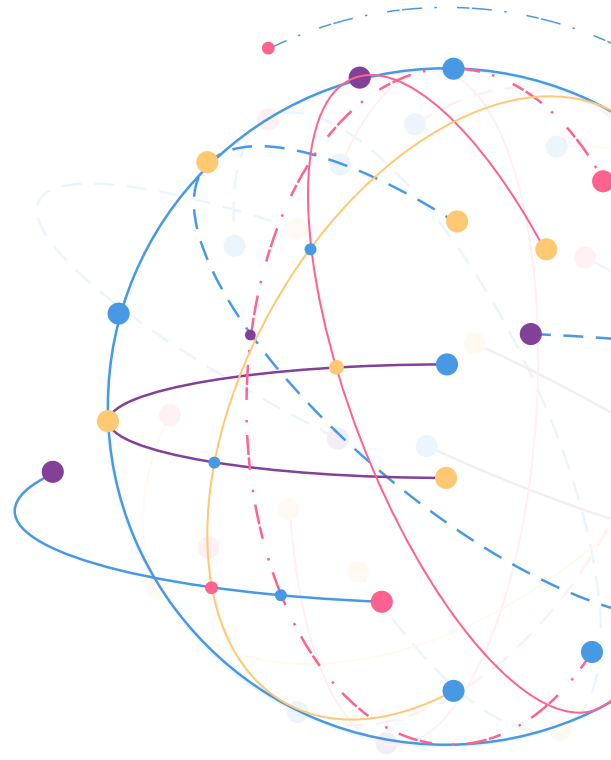
COAI also hosted its 'COAI Dialogues 2025' event, which brought together industry leaders, the regulator and policymakers to address the critical challenge of building digital trust. The discussions revealed that protecting digital trust cannot be an afterthought but must be a collaborative mission involving all ecosystem participants. However, COAI emphasized that addressing digital fraud requires a whole-of-industry approach rather than placing disproportionate compliance burdens solely on network operators.

Looking ahead, COAI remains committed to working collaboratively with policymakers to establish a robust regulatory environment that protects national interests while fostering innovation. COAI would strive to ensure that India's digital transformation journey is built on secure, sustainable and equitable foundations that serve all stakeholders effectively. These lessons will undoubtedly shape our continued advocacy for a stronger, safer and more sustainable telecommunications sector that truly embodies the vision of Digital India.



# COAI

## Latest Updates:



### **Letter to TRAI on Interconnection related issues and shifting from LDCA to LSA level PIs**

A letter was submitted to TRAI on 01.08.2025, requesting the Authority to expedite the release of the consultation paper on interconnection to address issues such as the lack of a regulatory framework for IP-based interconnection, arbitrary POI infrastructure charges by some operators (especially BSNL), unregulated timelines and processes for POI surrender, and high charges for emergency services connectivity. COAI urged TRAI to move towards a regulatory framework for LSA-based interconnection, highlighting that the five-year timeline for shifting from LDCA-based to LSA-based interconnection, as per the Telecommunication Interconnection Regulations (Second Amendment), 2020, which is nearing its end in 2025.

### **Letter to DoT on SIM binding of App-based communication services**

A submission was made to DoT on 05.08.2025, for the immediate implementation of persistent and continuous SIM-binding for OTT communication applications.

### **Letter to TRAI to conduct Consumer Education Workshops (CEWs) in digital/online mode by TSPs**

COAI submitted a letter to TRAI on 12.08.2025, requesting the Authority to allow CEWs in digital/online mode, as this would enable greater consumer participation and convenience for all stakeholders.

### **Letter to TRAI on exemption of FD on QoS**

COAI submitted a letter on 13.08.2025, requesting exemption from levy of Financial Disincentives on non-compliance of QoS parameters for Q4 FY 2024-25 and Q1 FY 2025-26, in recognition of the industry's ongoing efforts towards improvement quality of service.

### **Submission to DoT on National Telecom Policy 2025**

COAI submitted its response on 18.08.2025, highlighting key issues including regulation of OTT/ app-based communication platforms similar to TSPs, optimal Pricing of Spectrum, sharing of costs related to security compliance and shared and proportionate responsibility of all ecosystem players against spam and scams.

### **Letter to DoT on provisioning and installation of e-SIM via Self-KYC**

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 26.08.2025, requesting modifications to Clause 11 of the DoT Self-KYC process to enable registration of e-SIM on a separate device.

### **Letter to DoT on provisioning of telecom services to Persons with Disabilities (PwD)**

With reference to DoT instructions dated 31.07.2025, COAI submitted a letter on 21.08.2025, requesting a 12-week extension for implementation of the same.

### **Industry submission on Incremental SDR Submission and related concerns**

COAI submitted a letter on 20.08.2025, requesting DoT to reconsider its directions on daily submission of incremental SDRs, citing operational challenges.

### **Letter to DoT on 26 GHz spectrum roll-out obligations**

COAI submitted a letter on 14.08.2025, requesting that the second phase of roll-out obligations be merged with the third phase to streamline compliance timelines.

### **Submission made post 7th State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting to Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh**

Post the 7th SBC meeting, a submission was made to Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh on 01.08.2025, requesting support on issues related to Right of Way (RoW) Rules 2024 and portal implementation.

### **9th State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Maharashtra**

The 9th SBC meeting of Maharashtra was held on 07.08.2025, under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. COAI raised concerns on civic agencies not following RoW Rules 2024, continued property tax on mobile towers, pending tower regularization and repeated fiber cuts. A post-meeting submission was made on 18.08.2025.

### **Submission to Hon'ble IT Minister, Government of Karnataka**

A submission was made on 05.08.2025, to Shri Priyank Khadge, Hon'ble Minister of IT, Government of Karnataka,

requesting time for an industry meeting to deliberate on collaborative engagements with key departments for enhancement of digital infrastructure in the State.

#### **Letter to District Collector and Magistrate, Mumbai**

A letter was submitted on 06.08.2025, requesting for policy support to address RoW-related issues. This was a follow-up on the deliberations happened during the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) meeting.

#### **Letter to Principal Secretary UD-II, Government of Maharashtra**

A letter was submitted on 07.08.2025, requesting for a facilitation mechanism for processing RoW applications until the online portal becomes fully functional. The industry has been facing challenges in applying and getting RoW permissions in absence of a fully functional online portal.

#### **Letter to Municipal Commissioner, Greater Mumbai**

A submission was made on 14.08.2025, requesting suspension of GIS Mapping requirements for OFCs, due to concerns about data security. This submission was made as a response to the recent order from the Municipality to various entities, asking them to submit the details of the underground laid OFCs by them.

#### **Submission to Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh**

A letter was written on 20.08.2025, requesting discontinuation of annual tower renewal fees and replacement with a one-time fee. This was a repeat request from industry side as the issue was highlighted earlier too, including raising during the State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting.

#### **Letter to Principal Secretary IT & DS, Government of Tamil Nadu**

A letter was written on 20.08.2025, requesting reclassification of telecom electricity tariffs under the industrial category. The letter was part of continued exercise for pushing states to provide facilitative electricity tariff to the Telecom industry.

#### **Letter to Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana**

A letter was written on 20.08.2025, requesting immediate intervention to stop indiscriminate aerial fiber cuts and restore uninterrupted services. The members were facing severe disruption in providing telecom services to the customers as the DISCOM in Hyderabad had resorted to cutting of duly permitted Aerial Fiber.

#### **Letter to Secretary (T), Government of India**

A letter was written on 26.08.2025, regarding Hyderabad fiber cuts, requesting intervention to stop such unwarranted action. This submission was made on request from members since the aerial fiber cutting was continuing to happen in the city resulting in hampering of routine services of our members.

#### **Chandigarh State Broadband Committee (SBC) preparatory meeting**

A preparatory meeting was held on 30.07.2025, with DDG, Chandigarh LSA to finalize industry agenda points for the upcoming SBC meeting. The challenge related to regularization of towers was mainly discussed.

#### **Delhi State Broadband Committee (SBC) preparatory meeting**

An in-person industry meeting was convened on 01.08.2025, under the Chairmanship of Special DGT, Delhi LSA to prepare agenda items for the upcoming 9th Delhi SBC meeting.

#### **Uttarakhand post State Broadband Committee (SBC) submission**

A submission was made on 05.08.2025, to the Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand, highlighting key industry concerns, that were highlighted during the SBC meeting.

#### **Daman, Diu & DNH 12th UT Broadband Committee meeting**

The meeting was held on 05.08.2025, under the chairmanship of Advisor to Administrator. The Chair requested industry action on coverage issues in shadow areas.

#### **National Broadband Mission (NBM) meeting on Telecom Infrastructure Framework**

A meeting was held on 05.08.2025, to deliberate on industry views regarding telecom infrastructure in building development. The Mission Director asked the industry to review the available material on the matter and come back with some concrete suggestions on the subject.

#### **Submission to Government of J&K on electricity tariff**

A submission was made on 13.08.2025, requesting classification of telecom infrastructure under industrial tariff. The letter was part of continued exercise for pushing states to provide facilitative electricity tariff to the Telecom industry.

#### **Himachal State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting**

The meeting was held on 19.08.2025, under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. Industry concerns were raised on limited applicability of RoW Rules 2024 and re-permission charges.

#### **National Broadband Mission (NBM), Northern Railway meeting**

An online meeting was held on 21.08.2025, to deliberate on telecom infrastructure for the Ambala Cantt-Jalandhar railway project.

#### **Mizoram State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting**

The meeting was held on 12.08.2025, under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary - IT, where road restoration delays were discussed.

#### **Income Tax Act, 2025**

The Government notified the Income Tax Act, 2025 on 21.08.2025, repealing the Income Tax Act, 1961. Work is ongoing on related Rules and Forms.

#### **Implementation of Second Amendment to TCCCPR, 2018**

With reference to the TRAI meeting held on 19.08.2025, COAI submitted its comments on the proposed Principal Entity (PE) Authentication Solution on 22.08.2025.

#### **NCCS Notification**

Review of Security Certification approach and ITSARs - COAI submitted its inputs towards the formation of the committee within NCCS on 20.08.2025.





# COAI

## News Wires:

**ET Telecom:** COAI warned that mobile apps are exploiting regulatory gaps, becoming a major source of scams and spam. It urged that app-based communications be covered under a **unified consent management framework** to safeguard consumers and create consistency across the ecosystem. [ETTelecom.com](https://www.etttelecom.com)



**The Freedom Press:** COAI called on the Centre to **mandate persistent SIM-binding for OTT communication apps**, ensuring accountability, traceability and preventing misuse once the SIM has been removed. [ETTelecom.com](https://www.etttelecom.com)



**Moneycontrol:** COAI raised concerns over **direct enterprise spectrum allocation**, warning that it poses security risks, threatens government revenue, and undermines the existing infrastructure, advocating instead for deployment via licensed providers. [Moneycontrol](https://www.moneycontrol.com)



**The Hindu Business Line:** COAI condemned the Telangana power utility's **cutting of broadband cables**, which led to widespread disruptions in Hyderabad—highlighting the urgent need for better coordination and protection of telecom infrastructure. [The Times of India](https://www.thehindubusinessline.com)



**IANs:** COAI emphasized that **wider industry participation** is essential to strengthen digital trust and infrastructure, particularly in the face of growing digital fraud and data-intensive usage in the country's rapid 5G rollout. [OB News](https://www.obnews.com)





# COAI

## COAI Dialogues:



**The COAI Dialogues 2025 served as an official follow-up to the COAI DIGICOM Summit 2025, bringing together the regulator, industry leaders and policymakers to address the critical challenge of building digital trust. With over 25 Speakers and 300+ participants, the COAI Dialogues charted success like never before. The discussions revealed that protecting digital trust cannot be an afterthought but must be a collaborative mission involving all ecosystem participants.**



## Contact Us

Address : 14, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, New Delhi – 110 001

Phone : +91 - 11- 23349275 | Fax: +91 - 11 - 23349276

Email : [contact@coai.in](mailto:contact@coai.in) | Website: [www.coai.in](http://www.coai.in)

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

Follow us on:

