



COAI

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I-DIGEST

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LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

COAI has been consistent in raising issues which are of immediate concern for the welfare of the nation. We are basically concerned about the large traffic generators which constitute about five players out of the total mass of OTT and these five players contribute to 70 to 80% of the traffic which flows on our networks. We have proposed to the government that the OTTs, the LTGs, should pay for the infrastructure that we create for them. As these five players are growing at a massive range, we need high quality networks as well, for that they should contribute to USO Fund/Digital Bharat Nidhi Fund and thereby contribute to the Indian Digital Economy.

One of the major concerns nowadays is to take necessary steps to curtail spam calls and texts on the OTT communication apps platforms. Telecom service providers are using AI to reduce spam considerably and same the OTTs need to follow the same rules and regulations and block these spam calls which include digital arrests as well. Indians lost Rs 11, 333 crores to scamsters in the first nine months of 2024, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Telecom department (DoT) said that it had implemented a system to block international spoofed calls enabling it to block nearly 90% of the identified spoofed calls hence considering it as cost effective.

COAI contended that there has been a significant increase in the quantum of unsolicited communications as well as legitimate commercial communications that has moved to OTT communication apps leading to the rise in financial crimes in the country. We have also submitted that Financial Disincentives on TSPs, being only intermediary in this process, do not serve any purpose and have failed to address the issue in TRAI's attempts to curb UCC. It is disappointing that the TRAI's amendment of the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations 2018 to strengthen customer protection against Unsolicited Commercial Communication, has been issued without addressing all relevant issues. TRAI should take into consideration COAI's key submission and bring these entities under the ambit of its regulation.

COAI has also raised concern to the telecom department that illegal jammers and repeaters installed at educational institutes, homes and firms are deteriorating mobile network service quality and hence requested the department of telecom to take action against illegal jammers and boosters better than offence under the Telecommunications Act 2023, which should be stopped immediately.

5G FWA is rapidly gaining traction in India, offering faster deployment and lower costs compared to traditional fibre-based broadband. The adoption of FWA has been accelerating, driven by advancements in 5G technology and increasing demand for high-speed connectivity. It offers fibre like speeds enabling seamless streaming video conferencing making it an attractive option for both residential and business users as of 2024, global FWA connections are projected to reach 160 million with an estimated growth of 350 million by 2030. The 6GHz spectrum plays a crucial role in enabling higher speed 5G FWA, helping bridge India's digital divide. As FWA adoption grows, it is set to drive digital inclusion, supporting education, health care, and business transformation across India.



COAI

Latest Updates:



Counter Comments to TRAI's "Draft Telecommunication Tariff (Seventy First Amendment) Order, 2025

We submitted our counter comments to TRAI on 07.02.2025 reiterating our submissions that all statistics of usage and viability of PDO/PDOA architecture needs to be re-evaluated in the light of far-reaching changes introduced and monetization opportunities provided by the DoT vide this amendment and there is no need for any additional stimulus for PDOs.

Letter to TRAI on Information sought by authority on vouchers and sales/revenue for the last six months

We submitted a letter on 11.02.2025 informing TRAI that the information sought by the Authority is business sensitive as such requirements may pose potential commercial and competitive risks and hence cannot be provided.

Letter on TRAI's initiative on "Comprehensive Index and Rating Framework for Digital Connectivity and Digital Services for Villages in India"

We submitted a letter to TRAI on 14.02.2025 highlighting the limitations and challenges in assessing specific metrics on various parameters at the village level in the absence of any standardized village metrics. We further requested TRAI to refrain from the complex process of mapping such information at the village level.

Letter to DoT on Challenges in Data Preservation requirement for the State of Manipur for 5 years

We submitted a letter to DoT on 25.02.2025 requesting DoT not to implement a five-year retention policy, specifically for Manipur, as the same would not only be technologically difficult but would also require a complete overhaul of our member TSPs current infrastructure.

Letter to CBIC regarding the Invoice Management System (IMS) and its functionality

COAI submitted a letter on 10.02.2025 highlighting few issues in the proposed IMS functionality. Further, we have

shared our recommendations to resolve certain critical issues.

Letter to DoT and CBIC on Input Tax Credit Accumulation issues in Telecom Sector

COAI submitted a letter on 13.02.2025 recommending deletion of certain clause of the GST Act introduced by Amendment in 2018 and monetization accumulated ITC through tradeable scrips for claiming of ITC credit, and payment of BCD and any other indirect taxes and duties levied by the Central Government.

Letter to MoF regarding Representation on Issues Arising from the Amendments to Section 20 and Rule 39(1A) of the CGST Act and Rules (Effective from April 1, 2025)

COAI submitted a letter to MoF on 13.02.2025 highlighting the issues arising due to the amendments in the CGST Act and Rules and shared our recommendations for resolution of the same.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Tamil Nadu

The 5th SBC was convened on 03.02.2025, chaired by Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu. Issues like notifying the Right of Way (RoW) Rules 2024, implementation of these rules by the local municipal corporations/Authorities including entities like Port Trust, SIPCOT, TIDCO, CPCL and others, pendency of RoW application among other important issues were taken up by COAI. Post the SBC, a formal submission has also been made.

Jammu & Kashmir State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting

J&K SBC meeting was held on 11.02.2025 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir. Pending of adoption of RoW Rules 2024 in the UT was highlighted during the meeting.

Nagaland State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting

The 3rd SBC of Nagaland was conducted on 11.02.2025 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the state. Adoption of RoW rules 2024 in the state which is still pending was highlighted during the meeting.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Goa

The 4th SBC of Goa was convened on 12.02.2025, chaired by Chief Secretary, Government of Goa, attended in-person by COAI. Issues like adoption of RoW Rules 2024, EMF myths related issues, non-cooperation by local public were taken up. Post the SBC, a formal submission has also been made.

Gujarat State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting

Gujarat SBC meeting was held on 18.02.2025 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Gujarat. Major discussion was held regarding adoption of RoW Rules, 2024, regularisation of towers in Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) area and allowing laying of Aerial OFC in the State.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Chhattisgarh

The 6th SBC of Chhattisgarh was conducted on 20.02.2025, chaired by Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh. Online application Portal related issues, lack of support by local authorities to install Towers (deployment of Telecom Network) among others were taken.

Daman and Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli (DD & DNH) UT Broadband Committee meeting

DD & DNH UT Broadband Committee meeting was held on 21.02.2025 chaired by UT Administration. Immediate adoption of RoW Rules 2024 in the UT was requested during the meeting.

Public Hearing by the Chairperson, Rajasthan Electricity Commission

A Public Hearing by the Chairperson, Rajasthan Electricity Commission was held on 27.02.2025 on the draft terms & conditions for the Green Energy Open Access (GEOA) in the state. COAI on behalf of industry emphasised on the Use of Smart ToD meter in place of ABT meter, permitting 30% banking. Response to the draft was formally made in October 2024.

Public Hearing by Chairperson, Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (MPERC)

A Public Hearing by Chairperson, MPERC was held on 11.02.2025. COAI reiterated the industry's long-standing demand for granting electricity under Industrial rates to Telecom. Further, it was requested to Continue with KWH billing and rebate on ToD in off solar times.

Letter to Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Karnataka

A submission was made to Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Karnataka on 28.02.2025, requesting for an in-person meeting at the earliest opportunity, highlighting that there are impediments for deployment of robust telecom infra owing to non-facilitative approach by

local authorities and coercive action on existing telecom infrastructure which is adversely impacting the goal of making Karnataka a digitally empowered State.

Letter to Chief Secretary, Govt of Karnataka

A submission was made to Chief Secretary Karnataka on 24.02.2025, regarding the industry concern of network disruption because of Jammer(s) being installed in Bangalore Central Prison and other Prisons in the State. Chief Secretary was requested for immediate intervention to address this issue and support for exploring possible alternate solutions to minimize the service disruptions for affected customers.

Letter to Hon'ble Chief Minister Maharashtra

A submission was made to Hon'ble Chief Minister Maharashtra on 20.02.2025, requesting for an appointment for an in-person industry meeting. Members have raised concern about the reluctance from local governing bodies to implement RoW Rules 2024 and it was felt that raising the issue at the highest level in the state is required.

Letter to Chief Secretary, Government of Puducherry

A letter was written to Chief Secretary, Govt of Puducherry on 14.02.2025, requesting for issuance of notification for adoption and implementation of RoW Rules 2024 by all concerned authorities. Support on issues like timely permissions for OFC laying, e-signed permission orders to have names of roads and regularization of existing telecom infrastructure were also highlighted.

Letter to Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala

A letter is written to Chief Secretary, Govt of Kerala on 14.02.2025, requesting for issuance of notification for adoption and implementation of RoW Rules 2024 rules by all concerned authorities, urgent update of the online application portal 'Sugama' etc.

Letter to Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana

A letter was written to Chief Secretary, Govt of Telangana on 13.02.2025, requesting for issuance of the notification for adoption and implementation of RoW Rules 2024 by all concerned authorities, including entities like Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Hyderabad Road Development Corporation Ltd., & TSIC roads, Hyderabad Road Development Corporation Ltd. (HRDCL), Hyderabad Growth Corridor Ltd. (HGCL), Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation, Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd. (HMRL), Gram Panchayat's, Hyderabad Metro Development Authority (HMDA), Telangana State Electricity Board (SPDCL and NPDCL) and others.

Letter to written to Secretary, Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission

Letter to written to Secretary, Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission on 12.02.2025 against the tariff petition filed by the state DISCOM for the upcoming year. It was requested that Hon'ble Commission should not consider/approve electricity tariff hike applicable to the Telecom Industry as proposed by the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited.

Letter to Chief Secretary, Govt of Maharashtra

A submission post the 8th State Broadband Committee (SBC) was made to Chief Secretary, Govt of Maharashtra on 07.02.2025 requesting to support on the issues raised by COAI on behalf of Industry during the SBC.

Notification of Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024

COAI made formal submissions to Chief Secretary of Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal in 1st week of February 2025 for their support in notification of the Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024.

Industry Meeting chaired by DDG, National Broadband Mission (NBM)

Meeting(s) were chaired by DDG, NBM on 06.02.2025 and 17.02.2025 regarding Mapping of OFC on PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan and Provision of coverage maps for determining areas of villages uncovered by 4G/5G.

Implementation of Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024

A total of 20 States, UTs have issued notification till date on adoption, implementation of RoW Rules 2024. J&K, Ladakh, DD & DNH, Himachal Pradesh (for 01 year), Telangana have notified during this month.

Submission to Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission (BERC) on Annual Electricity Tariff Exercise

A submission was made to Secretary, BERC on 27.01.2025, with the industry request to minimize the operational and financial burden of the proposed tariffs.

Submission to Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission (UERC) on Annual Electricity Tariff Exercise

A submission was made to Secretary, UERC on 29.01.2025 for facilitating telecom industry by extending electricity under industrial tariff and no further tariff hike should be approved.

Submission to Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) on Annual Electricity Tariff Exercise

A submission was made to Secretary, HERC on 30.01.2025 for facilitating telecom industry by extending electricity under industrial tariff and no further tariff hike.

Submission to Chief Secretary, Delhi to align DISCOM pole charges

A submission was made to Chief Secretary, Delhi on 03.02.2025, reiterating about the long-standing industry demand, DISCOMs to align their pole leasing charges. This is essential to align the charges in accordance with Delhi RoW Rules, 2025.

Industry Meeting chaired by DDG National Broadband Mission (NBM) on RoW related Issues

A meeting was chaired by DDG, NBM on 25.02.2025 regarding on Right of Way (RoW) related issues. Each State, UT's status with regards the portal functionality, issuance of notification for RoW Rules 2024 was discussed in detail.

Notification of GEOA Regulations by UPERC and HERC

UPERC (Uttar Pradesh) and HERC (Haryana) have notified the Green Energy Open Access Regulations allowing consumers 100kW aggregation.

Committee constituted for Single Tower for Multiple Utilities

A committee chaired by Administrator DBN has been formed to work on possible options for placing utilities on existing towers. The committee had meetings on 06.02.2025 and 21.02.2025 to discuss possible locations for placing Prasar Bharti FM transmitters on telecom towers.

Bureau of Indian Standard created sub-committee meeting

The second meeting of the sub-committee on Information and Communication Enabled Installations was held on 17.02.2025.

Manipur IT Department meeting

Manipur IT Department conducted a meeting on 20.02.2025 to discuss the technical specifications of Common Ducts, for creating an EOI expected to be issued by the state PWD. COAI members provided their inputs.

Release of Draft Telecommunication (Standard Conformity Assessment and Certification) Rule, 2025

COAI submitted industry response to the draft rules on Telecommunication (Standard Conformity Assessment and Certification) on 28.02.2025.

Digital Personal and data Protection Act (DPDP)

COAI participated in the meeting held with the Additional Secretary (T), DoT along with the stakeholders on draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules 2025 issued by Ministry of Electronics and IT under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act on 17.02.2025.

Subcommittee report on AI Governance Guidelines Development:

MeiTY released the Sub-committee Report on AI Governance Guidelines Development. The submission to the same is under process.



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News Wires:

Mobile Apps not making efforts to stop spam: COAI

COAI said that over-the-top (OTT) communication apps such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Skype, Google Chat, and Viber are not taking necessary steps to curtail spam calls and texts on their platforms, and such should be treated with regulations akin to telcos. [Read more](#)



Illegal Jammers at educational institutes; boosters at home, firms hampering mobile services: COAI

COAI written to the telecom department that illegal jammers and repeaters installed at educational institutes, homes and firms are deteriorating mobile networks service quality, resulting in call drops and low data speed for consumers. [Read more](#)



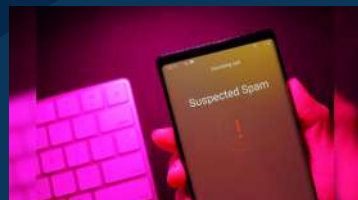
Formulate rules under Telecom Act to halt illegal sale of signal jammers: Telcos to DoT

This comes against the backdrop of recent incidents in some states concerning the installation of illegal jammers to halt mobile network signals for unexplained reasons which are adversely affecting the Quality of Service (QoS) for mobile users. [Read more](#)



TRAI's pesky call norms: COAI rules higher fines for telecom companies

COAI said it is also concerning that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has substantially increased the penalty to be imposed over the telecom service providers. [Read more](#)





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News Wires:

To check spam, TRAI plans to regulate telemarketers

The telecom regulator will soon come out with a consultation paper on prescribing a regulatory framework for telemarketers, officials said. [Read more](#)



Spectrum tug-of-war: Telecom vs tech in the 6GHz battle

The government's reforming of 687 MHz spectrum boosts telecom capacity, but the auctioning of the 6GHz band sparks concerns from the tech sector. [Read more](#)



Government looks at global best practices to regulate OTT players

TRAI has reportedly sent suggestions regarding regulations to the Ministry of information and Broadcasting and DoT. [Read more](#)





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