



COAI

ISSUE
JANUARY 2025

I-DIGEST

Connecting the World

News for you,
information that matters



www.coai.in

CONTENT

- 3 From DG's Desk
- 5 COAI Latest Updates
- 8 News Wires
- 10 COAI Events





LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

As we step into the new year, we are pleased to reflect on a landmark event that took place on 17th January 2025 – the first-ever DIGICOM Summit 2025, a pioneering platform where industry leaders, policymakers and innovators came together to discuss the critical role of digital infrastructure in bridging the digital divide and driving equitable growth for a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).

The summit, attended by distinguished guests such as Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister for Communications and Development of the Northeastern Region, Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, TRAI Chairman, amongst other eminent industry figures, highlighted the evolution of telecom and digital infrastructure and its impact on transforming our nation. The discussions underscored the ever-increasing role of telecom as the backbone of modern life and its importance in shaping the future of India's economy.

COAI's Chairperson, Abhijit Kishore, delivered a compelling vision for the future, emphasizing that technologies like 6G and the Internet of Things (IoT) will redefine connectivity and create a hyper-connected world. With these innovations, we are on the cusp of a new digital era that will fundamentally transform industries and societies.

A key area of focus at the summit was the importance of 5G as a growth driver for India's digital economy. To ensure that India meets international standards for IMT 2020 user experience and keeps pace with the global digital revolution, it is crucial for the country to acquire an additional 2 GHz of mid-band spectrum. The Government has expressed its commitment to addressing this need and ensuring there are no barriers to the continued development of the country's digital telecom landscape.

As we prepare for the next wave of growth, COAI is actively engaging with the Government to advocate for policies that foster innovation and investment in the telecom sector. We have outlined key areas for support in our Union Budget 2025 wish list, including reduced spectrum costs, the abolition of certain levies and the need for clarity on the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) issue. These steps are vital to accelerating the rollout of next-generation technologies and ensuring that the telecom sector remains competitive and sustainable.

The 1100 MHz spectrum refarming approved by the Government is a crucial step forward, enabling the widespread deployment of 5G services across India. This initiative will not only enhance user experience but also contribute to the broader goal of digital inclusivity, ensuring that every citizen has access to world-class digital services.

Finally, as the telecom sector continues to evolve and grow, it is becoming increasingly clear that telecom has



transitioned from a specialized service to an essential horizontal service that powers every aspect of modern life. In this context, we continue to urge the Government to address the financial burden on the sector by reducing levies and offering greater support for infrastructure development.

In conclusion, the telecom industry is poised to play a pivotal role in driving India's growth as a Viksit Bharat. With robust investment in 5G infrastructure, greater mobile data usage and an expanded fixed broadband footprint, we are set to unlock the immense potential of digital technologies for every citizen, every business and every community.

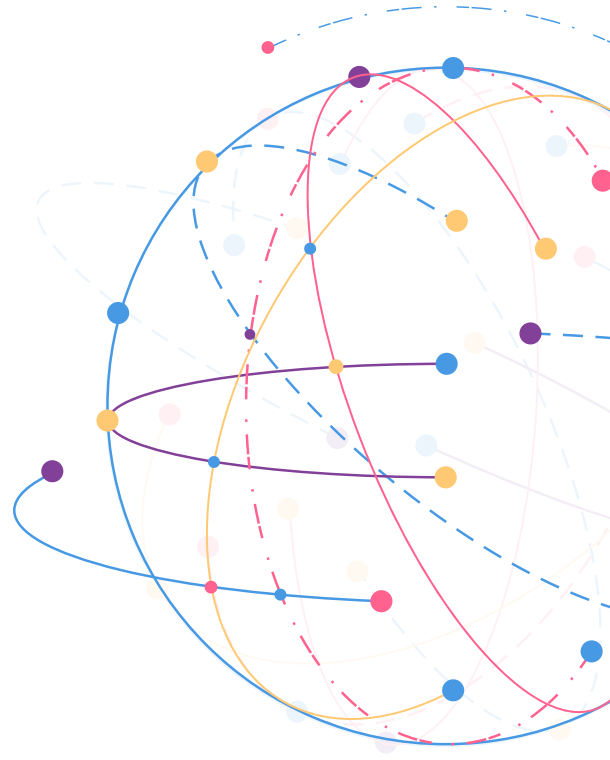
Together, we can create a more connected, equitable and prosperous India.

– LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)
Director General, COAI



COAI

Latest Updates:



Letter to DoT regarding Mandatory Regulatory Requirement for OTT Communication Services

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 07.01.2025, highlighting the need to Regulate the OTT/App Based Communication Service Providers to maintain a level playing field.

Letter to DoT on Impact of Telecom Rules

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 15.01.2025, highlighting the impact of various rules such as CTI and CII rules, which were issued by DoT. DoT has been requested to consider addressing the concerns like duplications, etc. which are increasing the burden of compliance on TSPs.

Letter to DoT seeking Extension of timeline for Registration of M2M Service Providers

COAI submitted a letter to DoT seeking extension of timeline for registration of M2MSPs and WPAN/WLAN Connectivity Providers for M2M Services on 09.01.2025. The DoT has approved and granted an extension for registration until 31.03.2025.

Letter to TRAI highlighting the Impact of various significant external factors on Quality of Services (QoS) in Telecom

COAI submitted a letter to TRAI on 08.01.2025, requesting the authority to consider various factors while evaluating the QoS parameters of TSPs against the benchmarks laid down by the authority in the regulation. The authority was further requested to not levy any financial disincentives on the TSPs, as these external factors significantly impact their ability to meet standards.

COAI Letter to MeitY regarding the connectivity of Data Centres

COAI submitted a letter to MeitY on 16.01.2025, to requesting to consider the value addition of Data Centres into the policy document of the Information Technology Policy, which is being formulated by MeitY.

Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2024

COAI submitted the Clause wise response, to the DoT's

Draft Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2024 on 15.01.2025.

Draft Study Paper on Opportunities for AI in Communication Networks

COAI submitted its response to the Draft Study Paper on Opportunities for AI in Communication Networks on 14.01.2025. In its response, COAI suggested ways to increase the uptake of AI.

a. Request for Additional Extension of Timelines for Submission of EMF Self-Certificates and Abeyance of 5G Site Testing

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 08.01.2025, requesting for an extension in timeline for Self-Certification and alignment of India's EMF norms with ICNIRP norms. Further, a follow up letter was submitted to DoT on 23.01.2025, seeking extension and alignment with ICNIRP 2020 thresholds.

Prioritization of the processes/modules to be implemented under the TCCCP Regulation, 2018

COAI Letter was submitted to TRAI requesting that the priority list with respect to the implementation of various modules/processes be issued by TRAI under discussions with our member TSPs. Further, adequate time be provided to our member TSPs to implement these modules/processes and make changes on the DLT platform. Moreover, no adverse action like SCN or FD may be imposed on the items lower in the priority list, when the top priority items are under implementation.

Communication Security Scheme by NCCS

A joint representation was sent to the Honourable Minister of Communication, requesting his support and guidance towards the challenges faced by the industry towards COMSEC, dated January 24.01.2025. Further, a separate letter was submitted by COAI to DoT dated 22.01.2025 highlighting operational concerns.

D.O. Letter to Chief Secretaries, Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim

D.O. letters to the new Chief Secretaries of Andhra

Pradesh and Sikkim, were written on 03.01.2025, congratulating them on assuming their office.

Submission made to Secretary (T), on new DG set compliance norms

A letter was submitted to Secretary (T) on 06.01.2025, requesting for support towards exempting the industry on complying with the new DG sets norms, issued by various states and also requesting to take up the issue with the concerned Government ministry/department. Further, it was also requested to have an inter-departmental meeting with the industry to discuss the industry concerns.

Letter to Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana

A letter was submitted to Chief Secretary, Telangana on 09.01.2025, requesting the State Government to remove the misleading communication from a main road in Hyderabad, on the alleged harmful effects of radiation emitted by communication towers, which is unsupported by scientific evidence. COAI also requested to organise awareness programs to disseminate accurate information through credible platforms.

Submission to Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (MPERC)

A submission was made to the Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (MPERC) on 14.01.2025, as part of industry participation in the annual electricity tariff finalization exercise and comments/suggestions were shared on the Petition relating to the ARR and Tariff proposals on behalf on Telecom Industry.

Letter to Chairman and MD, Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL)

A letter was submitted to CMD, Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) on 20.01.2025, requesting the State DISCOMs to align their charges as per the Right of Way Rules 2024, especially the Pole leasing charges.

Submission made to Chairperson, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

A submission was made to the Chairperson, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission on 23.01.2025, requesting for Industrial tariff instead of "Commercial tariff" for both LT and HT connected Telecom units as well as no hike in tariffs as proposed by DISCOMs.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting of Telangana

The 7th SBC meeting of the Telangana State was held on 06.01.2025, chaired by the Special Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana. COAI raised major issues like Implementation of new RoW rules 2024, Payment of Demand Note not getting settled in Real time basis, issue related with GHMC and HGCL and issues related with the GatiShakti Portal.

User Training on Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal in view of New RoW Rules, 2024

A meeting was chaired by the NBM on 02.01.2025, to give an overview of Changes and User Training on Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal in view of new RoW Rules, 2024.

Implementation of Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024

The States, UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have notified to implement the Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024.

Submission to Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC) on Annual Electricity Exercise

A submission has been made to the Secretary, GERC on 23.01.2025, to charge electricity duty in line with other Industries, i.e. @ 10% and there should not be any further tariff hike.

Submission to Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) on Annual Electricity Exercise

A submission has been made to Secretary, PSERC on 24.01.2025, for facilitating telecom infrastructure at industrial tariffs and that there should not be any further tariff hike.

Withdrawal of the proposal to levy exorbitant rental charges for mobile towers

A submission has been made to the Chandigarh Administration on 15.01.2025, on withdrawal of the proposal to levy exorbitant rental charges for mobile towers.

Bihar State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting

Bihar SBC meeting was held on 27.12.2024, under the chairmanship of CS, Bihar. Adoption of RoW Rules 2024, RoW Pendency, Increasing CBuD usage were highlighted during the meeting.

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

A submission has been made to Secretary, BERC on 27.01.2025, for facilitating telecom infrastructure by - Retaining kWh Billing instead of transitioning to kVAh billing, Maintaining Power Factor Incentive to encourage efficiency, Implementing Time of Day (ToD) billing as an optional feature for low-tension (LT) consumers and Offering discounted tariffs during off-peak hours (11:00 PM to 9:00 AM) to promote usage during this period.

Haryana State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting

Haryana SBC meeting was held on 07.01.2025, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Haryana, attended in-person by COAI. Major discussion was held regarding adoption of RoW Rules, 2024 in the State.

Ladakh 06th State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting

The 6th SBC meeting of Ladakh was held on 17.01.2025,

under the chairmanship of Advisor to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Ladakh. Adoption of RoW Rules 2024 in the UT was highlighted during the meeting.

Submission to Secretary, Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission

A submission was made to Secretary, Odisha Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (OPERC) on 08.01.2025, as part of industry participation in the annual electricity tariff finalization exercise and comments/suggestions were accordingly shared on the Petition relating to the ARR and Tariff proposals on behalf on Telecom Industry.

National Broadband Mission 2.0

The National Broadband Mission 2.0 was launched by the Hon'ble MoC on 17.01.2025. As part of the launch, COAI shared a congratulatory note with the department for the

upcoming launch of NBM 2.0 and industry message on the positive impact NBM 1.0 had made to the country.

Maharashtra State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting

Maharashtra SBC meeting was held on 27.01.2025, under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Maharashtra. Major discussions were held regarding adoption of RoW Rules, 2024 in the State and the industry issue on regularization of towers in Mumbai.

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

A submission has been made to the Secretary, UERC on 29.01.2025, for facilitating telecom infrastructure at industrial tariff and that there should not be any further tariff hike.



COAI

News Wires:

Telecom spectrum in 6- Ghz band key to avoid 5G radio wave crunch: COAI

Non-allocation of telecom spectrum in 6Ghz band could lead to a radio wave crunch for high-speed 5G services, a key growth driver for the country's digital economy. [Read more](#)



COAI's DIGICOM Summit 2025 discusses future of 5G and 6G

COAI has organized the first-ever DIGICOM Summit 2025, focusing on how digital infrastructure is bridging the digital divide and driving equitable growth. [Read more](#)



Telcos seek service tax exemption on additional AGR dues

The association has also urged the government to extend carry forward of business losses from 8 years to 16 years. [Read more](#)



Cabinet approves refarming of 687 Mhz of spectrum, more to come: Jyotiraditya Scindia

Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced plans to meet the industry's need for 2,000 Mhz by 2030, with further steps to be based on a committee report expected mid-year. [Read more](#)





COAI

News Wires:

Reliance Jio, Airtel and Vodafone-idea want telecom department to take this 'international call' on Amazon, Netflix and others

Telecom operators lobby India's DoT to adopt TRAI's definition of international traffic, potentially increasing their SMS revenues by over Rs. 400 crore annually.

[Read more](#)



Telecom companies seek easing of 'stringent quality of service' norms

Continuing to push back against the stringent quality of service (QoS) norms brought in by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, telcos have informed the Department of Telecommunications that collection and submission of monthly and site-to-cell-level data should be eased.

[Read more](#)



COAI Events

COAI DIGICOM Summit 2025

The COAI's DIGICOM Summit 2025 highlighted India's strides in digital infrastructure, emphasizing its role in bridging the digital divide and driving equitable growth. By ensuring that technological advancements uplift every section of society, the summit reinforced the vision of a truly "Viksit Bharat". This inaugural event brought together over 30 key industry speakers across 5 insightful panel discussions, attracting participation from more than 300 industry leaders.

The summit's inaugural session featured Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Minister of Communications and other distinguished dignitaries, garnering significant media attention. Among the highlights was the Minister's announcement on the 'refarming of spectrum,' which emerged as a focal point in many reports, alongside other noteworthy speeches from industry leaders. The DIGICOM Summit successfully positioned itself as a platform for shaping the future of India's digital landscape, fostering collaboration and innovation for inclusive growth.

The DIGICOM Summit 2025 reaffirmed India's commitment to becoming a "Digitally Viksit Bharat" by showcasing the power of technology and collaboration to bridge divides and drive inclusive growth. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia's visionary address set a transformative agenda, focusing on enhancing connectivity and implementing forward-looking policies. The summit also spotlighted emerging technologies like AI, IoT and 5G, highlighting their potential to revolutionize industries and empower underserved regions. Key discussions underscored the need for regulatory reforms, infrastructure sharing and the adoption of innovative solutions to ensure sustainable and equitable development. As India moves toward realizing its goal of a USD 1 trillion digital economy, the summit provided actionable insights and a clear roadmap to build a resilient and inclusive digital future.





Contact Us

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

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

Email : contact@coai.in | Website: 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:

