



COAI I-DIGEST

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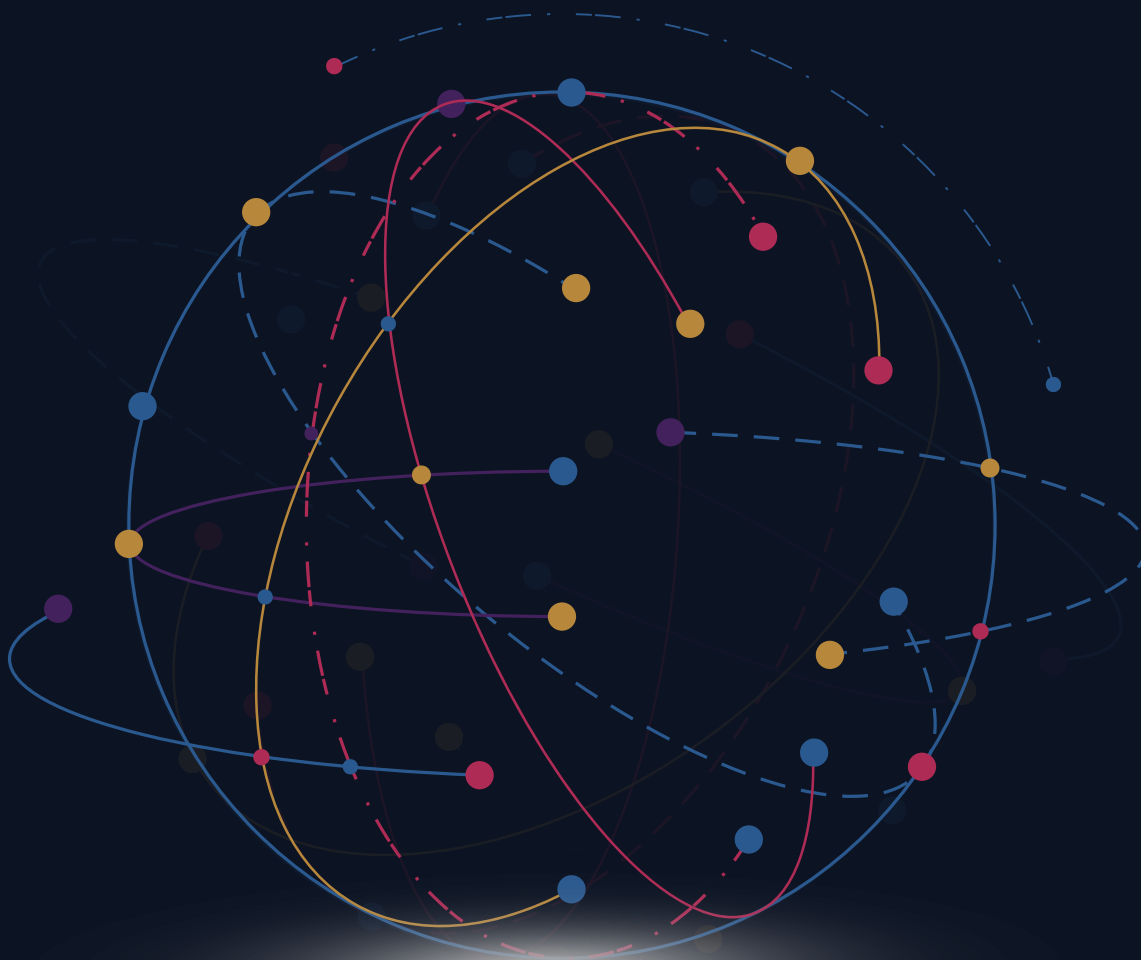
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LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

This month marked another chapter in India's digital transformation journey, where the telecom sector continued to assert its role as the foundational pillar of the country's connectivity and innovation ambitions.

COAI welcomed the government's move to prohibit the illegal sale of signal boosters through e-commerce platforms. These unauthorized devices have long disrupted network quality and compromised user experience. The enforcement of new e-commerce guidelines is a commendable step in protecting spectrum integrity and ensuring uninterrupted mobile service for consumers. We believe such action strengthens overall trust in India's telecom infrastructure and sends a clear signal that illegal and unregulated practices will not be tolerated.

At the same time, COAI and its members have raised essential concerns regarding spectrum management, fair competition and long-term network sustainability in regarding non-terrestrial communications in India. Satellite and terrestrial networks must operate on a level playing field, with transparent licensing norms, cost obligations and regulatory oversight, that protect existing investments and ensure equitable outcomes for all stakeholders.

Spam and fraudulent messages continue to be a source of frustration for consumers, especially with a growing shift toward over-the-top (OTT) platforms. While telecom operators have implemented stringent methods to curb such misuse, such loopholes continue to persist in the regulations, adding to dissatisfaction of the users. The proposed policy enhancements by COAI calls for a unified framework that holds all digital service providers accountable, reinforcing the principle of "Same Service, Same Rules" for the safety and privacy of users.

On the regulatory front, TRAI's Digital Consent Management pilot aims to curb spam and enhance user trust, and there's a strong push to ensure devices remain affordable to prevent a new digital divide. The sector is attracting significant foreign investment and is poised for 10-12% growth in operating income in FY2026, with ARPU expected to climb further on the back of recent and upcoming tariff hikes. The future looks bright as the industry embraces AI-native networks and continues to drive innovation and inclusion.

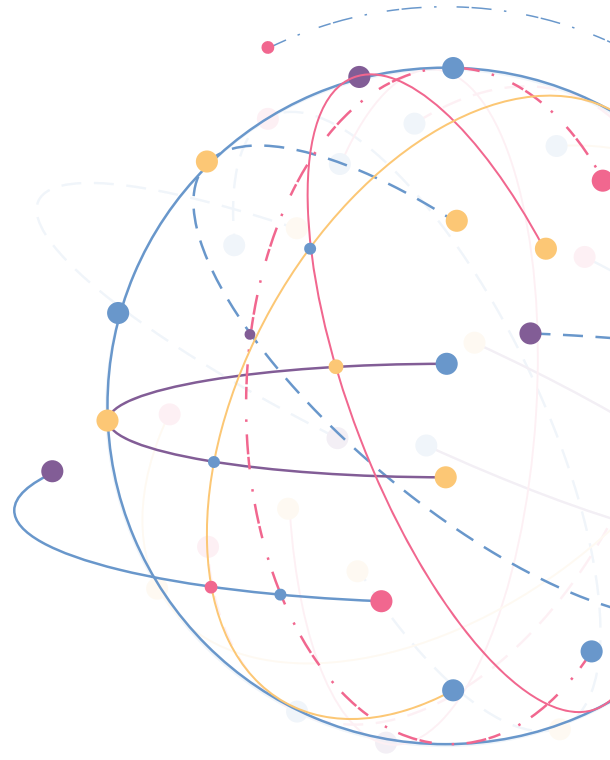
We also remain focused on the tremendous potential of rural India as the next growth engine for the telecom sector. With nearly all villages now connected to mobile broadband, it is time to move beyond connectivity and towards empowerment. Enabling rural entrepreneurship, local innovation and inclusive digital services will be critical to achieving India's broader socio-economic goals.

COAI urges all stakeholders to stay aligned on key reforms, especially around spectrum pricing, RoW simplification and satcom-terrestrial integration. The road ahead requires proactive policymaking, industry-government collaboration and unwavering support for innovation. India's digital ambitions are soaring and the telecom sector is not just keeping pace, it is leading from the front.



COAI

Latest Updates:



Letter to DoT on TRAI Recommendations on the Terms and Conditions for the assignment of Spectrum for Satellite-based Communication:

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 29.05.2025, stating that these recommendations are non-transparent and assumption-driven rather than evidence-based. The inadequate stakeholder consultation has produced inequitable outcomes that potentially contravene the Telecommunications Act, 2023. COAI requested DoT to form a committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the recommendations in their entirety and also give an opportunity to TSPs to share their views regarding the same.

Draft manual for Assessment of Digital Connectivity under Rating of Properties:

COAI submitted its response to TRAI on 09.06.2025, stating that Property Managers should be made responsible to fund building ratings and provide telecom infrastructure as they are the main beneficiaries. COAI further recommended adopting a phased implementation approach with high-priority, high-footfall properties. For verifying data speeds and voice quality, it was suggested that TRAI MySpeed App should be used.

Letter to DoT on MNP timelines for Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and North East LSAs:

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 13.06.2025, requesting that DoT should streamline the MNP process in these LSAs too and reduce the UPC and MNP timelines to align with the timelines followed in rest of the country, i.e., the MNP process be completed within a maximum of 3 days rather than 15 days in these controlled states.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Karnataka:

The 7th SBC meeting of Karnataka was held on 05.06.2025, chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary (UDD), Govt. of Karnataka. COAI raised industry issues like no approvals by local authorities, no refund of security deposits and also requested for Notification and Implementation of RoW Rules 2024, Portal Onboarding/Integration with

Central RoW Portal, Regularization of Telecom Towers, resolution Mobile Signal Disruption due to Installation of Jammers in Prison, etc. An official submission highlighting these points was also made to the Chief Secretary on 13.06.2025.

Submission to State Electricity Regulatory Commissions Requesting to put Telecom under Industrial Electricity Tariff:

A fresh round of submissions were made to respective Chairmen, State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC and JERCUT) Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal during the month, requesting the Commission to consider extending the electricity tariff for Telecom industry under Industrial rates. The examples of Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh were also quoted as these States have already put in Industrial Rate Categories, apart from other genuine justifications.

Discussion on Specifications of Small Cells with Members of Tamil Nadu:

A meeting was organised with the members of Tamil Nadu on 04.06.2025, to discuss the specifications of small cells to be deployed using the Street Furniture. These details were sought by the LSA, basis the request from the Information Technology & Digital Services Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Available inputs were provided to the LSA subsequently.

Meetings with National Broadband Mission (NBM) and Members on Withdrawal of old Applications of Ministry of Defence:

Various in-person and online meetings with NBM and Members were organised during the month of June 2025, to discuss the RoW pendencies related with the Ministry of Defence. These activities were undertaken in view of migration from old portal to new portal by the Mission.

Meetings with Administrator of Daman Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli (DD & DNH) on Network Coverage:

Administrator of DD & DNH held two meetings with TSP members during the month, to discuss on resolution of the network problem in Dadra Nagar Haveli. Members participated and deliberated the stated issues and possible solutions.

Meeting with CEO Noida Authority:

An Industry meeting was held with the CEO of Noida Authority on 23.06.2025, to seek his support on permission issues in Noida. This happened post continuous follow ups with his office and also a reminder submission made on 02.06.2025, seeking an industry meeting for discussing industry concerns in Noida.

Meeting with Secretary, Power, Govt. of Delhi:

An industry meeting was held with the Secretary Power, Govt. of Delhi on 24.06.2025. The Industry highlighted the challenges for non-alignment of pole leasing charges by the DISCOMs, Industrial tariff and Green Energy Open Access (GEOA) for telecom towers. Owing to the regular follow up by COAI, Department of Power issued directions to all DISCOMs to comply with the provisions of RoW Rules 2024 in its true letter and spirit.

Submission to Member Secretary, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Exemption on DG sets Compliance:

A submission was made to the Member Secretary, CAQM on 04.06.2025, requesting Exemption for the Telecom industry on the DG Sets Compliance.

Submission made to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for Withdrawal of Renewal Demands:

A submission was made to the MCD Commissioner on 12.06.2025, for withdrawal of Renewal Demands which members have received for Towers. This has been highlighted to Delhi LSA and the National Broadband Mission too.

Meeting held by NBM on RoW Related Issues:

NBM held a meeting on 13.06.2025, with TSPs, IPs, COAI, FICCI and ASSOCHAM under the chairmanship of Director, NBM regarding RoW implementation issues in the States/UTs.

Gujarat State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting:

The Gujarat SBC meeting was held under the chairmanship of Secretary DST on 19.06.2025. COAI highlighted issues regarding ground implementation and acceptability of RoW Rules, Regularisation challenges in GIDC, High rentals on OFC laying, etc.

Reminder Submission to Chief Secretary Jharkhand on RoW Support:

A fresh letter as a reminder has been submitted to CS, Jharkhand on 19.06.2025, requesting her support on implementation of the Right of Way Rules 2024 and Delay in Permissions in the State.

Assam State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting:

Assam's 13th SBC meeting was held under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary IT on 06.06.2025. COAI highlighted issues regarding DG Sets Consent to Operate (CTO) requirements and extending Industrial Tariff rate to the industry.

Arunachal Pradesh State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting:

The State of Arunachal Pradesh held its 10th SBC meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary on 27.06.2025. COAI participated through virtual mode.

National Broadband Mission meetings on NBM 2.0 targets and possible approaches:

The mission held a series of meetings with the industry on the targets defined in the NBM 2.0. The Mission has also involved some other Ministries to address their concerns and improve connectivity. Multiple meetings happened on improving broadband connectivity in 'Anganwadis' which comes under the Ministries of Women and Child Welfare.

Standardization of Documents for RoW applications:

The National Broadband Mission (NBM) sought inputs from the industry and also held a meeting to standardize the list of documents required while applying for RoW permissions. Initially this activity is being done for 12 States/UTs which are live on Central RoW portal. The approach is to standardize for all States and UTs in the country in a time bound manner.

Meeting with Senior DDG (Building Works), DoT:

An industry meeting was held in-person on 17.06.2025, and a follow up meeting through virtual mode was conducted on 19.06.2025, chaired by the Sr. DDG (BW). All the industry issues related to Energy - Green Energy Open Access, Industrial Tariff, DG set norms, etc. were deliberated at length. The department has assured the industry of possible support by engaging with other ministries.

Telecom Infrastructure Committee Quarterly meeting:

The quarterly meeting of the Telecom Infrastructure Committee, i.e., TIC, was held on 17.06.2025. Members of COAI, DIPA secretariat and its members joined the meeting. Deliberation happened on the various activities being carried out by the Committee and the way forward on key focus areas.

Sikkim issues notification on Right of Way Rules 2024:

The state of Sikkim on 16.06.2025, joined a list of 28 States and UTs now, which have officially issued an order on RoW Rules 2024.

NBM Meeting on Portal issues of various states:

The National Broadband Mission (NBM) held an industry meeting on 20.06.2025, to discuss the current challenges in various States and UTs regards the online portal. The focus was on the Centralized portal related challenges.

IMS Issue:

A meeting was called by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, MoF under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CBIC on 16.06.2025, to discuss the Invoice Management System (IMS) on the GST Portal. COAI submitted concerns such as issuance of 'hold' option for Credit Note, extending timeline to correct inadvertent error (post filing of GSTR 3B), etc. It was conveyed during the meeting that COAI's submissions have been accepted and the same will be implemented on the GST Portal in due course.

ITC Accumulation:

A meeting was called by Member (CX, GST, ST) on 10.06.2025, to discuss the issue regarding ITC Accumulation. A detailed deliberation was carried out on the way to free the amount which is blocked in the Ecosystem.

National Preparatory Committee (NPC) WRC-27:

COAI submitted its nominations to NPC on 25.06.2025, to participate and give contributions to various Working

Groups formed under NPC.

Draft Guidelines for the Prevention and Regulation of Unsolicited & Unwarranted Business Communications:

COAI submitted letter to DoCA on 06.06.2025, in continuation to its earlier communications, to notify the said draft guidelines at the earliest.

5G Deployment Restrictions Near Airports Due to Radio Altimeter Concerns:

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 16.06.2025, regarding the continuing restrictions on 5G deployment in the C-band (3300–3600 MHz) near airports and runways.

Consultation Paper on Assignment of the Microwave Spectrum:

COAI submitted request to TRAI on 19.06.2025, for extension of timelines to respond to the TRAI CP on Assignment of Microwave spectrum.

Guidelines against illegal sale of radio equipment to help improve mobile QoS:

COAI thanked the DoCA and the DoT for recognising the gravity of the issue and responding with decisive measures.

[Read more](#)



Fair rules as TRAI's satcom proposals spark concern:

Global telecom body GSMA has called for regulatory parity between satellite and terrestrial telecom providers, saying same legal, economic and tax frameworks must govern similar services.

[Read more](#)



Trai's new proposal may help check spam as it complements data protection laws:

Trai's new consent mechanism pilot for spam control aims to harmonize with India's data protection law, addressing past failures due to poor coordination and enforcement. [Read more](#)



COAI flags Trai's satcom recommendations; claims assumptions incorrect, low charges unjustifiable:

Industry body COAI has approached the telecom department to raise concerns over Trai recommendations on the satcom spectrum, saying "incorrect assumptions" have led to unjustifiably low spectrum charges for satellite services relative to terrestrial networks.

[Read more](#)





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