



COAI

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I-DIGEST

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LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

July has been a month of reflection and renewed ambition for India's telecom sector. As digital technologies continue to reshape economies and societies, it is increasingly evident that telecommunications is no longer merely an enabler of connectivity, it has evolved into the foundational infrastructure powering India's digital economy. Whether supporting artificial intelligence, digital public infrastructure, smart manufacturing or connected mobility, telecom networks today are central to the country's growth and competitiveness.

This vision was aptly reflected in the launch of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026 theme, "Scale Without Boundaries," for the landmark 10th edition of the event. The theme captured a future where innovation is no longer constrained by geography, industries, or technologies. It reflects a world where trusted digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, next-generation connectivity and cross-border collaboration enable ideas developed anywhere to create impact everywhere. Having demonstrated how technology can transform a nation at unprecedented scale, India is now helping shape globally interoperable, secure and inclusive digital ecosystems. As we prepare for the 10th edition of IMC, the theme reinforces India's growing leadership in defining the future of digital innovation while creating opportunities for global collaboration and technological advancement.

Throughout the month, industry discussions also reinforced the strategic importance of telecom infrastructure. An important issue that remained in focus was the industry's continued emphasis on ensuring a sustainable financial environment for telecom operators. With substantial capital commitments towards spectrum acquisition, network expansion and next-generation technologies, it is imperative that policy and regulatory frameworks support long-term investment and innovation. A financially healthy telecom sector is fundamental to realizing India's aspirations in AI, Digital Public Infrastructure and future connectivity.

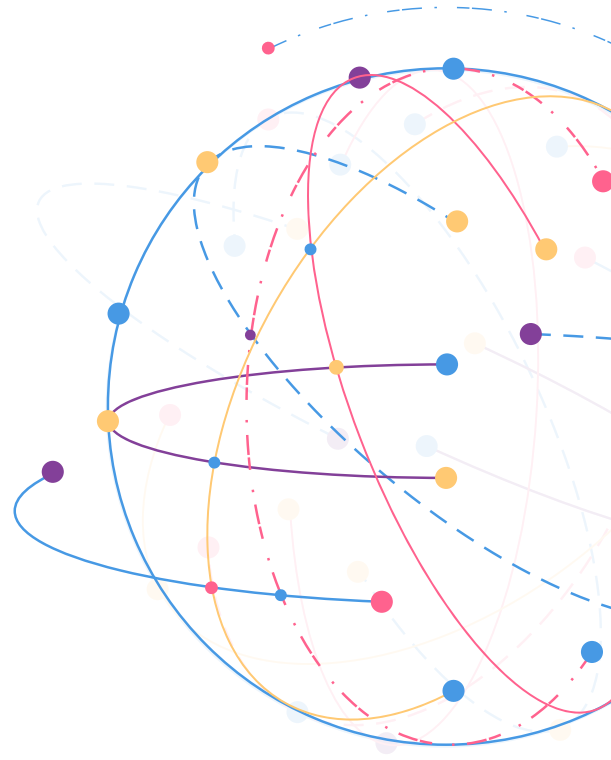
The month also witnessed continued discussions around Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) communications. As connected mobility ecosystems evolve, it is important that spectrum policy ensures efficient utilization while maintaining globally harmonized standards and secure, interoperable networks. The telecom industry continues to advocate that licensed mobile networks provide the most scalable and secure foundation for deploying advanced V2X services, supporting India's vision of safer and smarter transportation.

As we look ahead, the momentum building towards IMC 2026 reflects India's confidence and global relevance in shaping the future of communications. COAI will keep working alongside government, regulators, industry and international partners to build a secure, innovative and globally competitive telecom ecosystem that continues to power India's digital journey.



COAI

Latest Updates:



Regulatory & Strategy Committee

Release of Ported Numbers from Inactive/Cancelled Licensees to Original TSPs: COAI submitted a letter to TRAI on 08.07.2026 requesting urgent directions for the release of mobile numbers (MSISDNs) stranded with inactive/cancelled licensees and their return to the original Number Range Holder TSPs. COAI highlighted that the continued blockage of these numbering resources leads to inefficient utilisation of precious numbering resources and requested TRAI to direct MNPSPs to return such numbers without any additional charge, issue necessary guidelines for their timely release upon cessation of operations of recipient operators and mandate a time-bound framework for the process.

Upward Revision of International Termination Charges (ITC): COAI submitted a letter to TRAI on 20.07.2026 requesting an early and separate consideration for the upward revision of International Termination Charges (ITC). COAI highlighted that the revision of ITC is distinct from the broader interconnection regulatory review and urged TRAI to expedite the revision to ensure fair compensation for Indian telcos, curb fraudulent international traffic, align India's ITC with international benchmarks, and prescribe a time-bound glide path for future revisions.

Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Draft Telecom Consumers Complaint Redressal (Fourth Amendment) Regulation, 2026: TRAI conducted an OHD on 17.07.2026 on this Regulation. During the OHD, COAI reiterated that the existing complaint redressal framework is robust, consumer-centric and supported by well-established digital and physical grievance redressal mechanisms. COAI emphasised that while strengthening consumer protection is important, any regulatory changes should remain proportionate, technology-neutral and operationally feasible, avoid duplication of existing processes, preserve operational flexibility for Telcos, and continue to facilitate timely and effective resolution of consumer grievances while promoting ease of doing business.

Telecommunications (Authorisation for Telecommunication Network) Rules, 2026: The rules were published on 22.07.2026. DoT has accepted important COAI submissions by prescribing No authorisation fee for Infrastructure Provider (IP) authorisation and expressly permitting sharing of passive telecommunication infrastructure by IP authorised entities with other authorised entities or licensees on a fair and non-discriminatory basis through mutual agreement.

TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting of Maharashtra - 12th SBC meeting of Maharashtra was convened on 01.07.2026, chaired by Chief Secretary, Govt of Maharashtra. COAI highlighted the industry concerns, including issues like RoW Rules non-implementation by various local Authorities, portal usage challenges and issues related with security/ Bank deposits etc. A formal submission was subsequently made, detailing the issues, to the Chief Secretary on 08.07.2026.

Submission to Chief Secretary, Govt of Chhattisgarh - A submission was made to the Chief Secretary, Govt of Chhattisgarh on 17.07.2026, requesting intervention and support in facilitating appropriate guidance to the concerned departments and authorities, so that the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024, be implemented uniformly across the State.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting of Karnataka - 9th SBC of Karnataka was convened on 18.07.2026, chaired by Chief Secretary of Karnataka. COAI highlighted industry concerns about pending issuance of RoW Rules 2024 administrative order, gaps in implementation of Rules by local bodies, requesting for convening of DLTC on regular basis and other electricity related issues of members. A formal submission was subsequently made, detailing the issues, to the Chief Secretary on 27.07.2026.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting of Goa – 5th SBC of Goa was conducted on 21.07.2026, chaired by the Chief Secretary, Govt of Goa. COAI shared Industry RoW related issues with the LSA, like PWD not processing applications through online Janparichay portal, also requested state's support for police protection during telecom infrastructure deployment (mobile towers) etc.

Submission to Chief Secretary, Govt of Madhya Pradesh – A submission was made to the Chief Secretary, Govt of Madhya Pradesh on 22.07.2026. Through this submission, the industry requested support from Government on the challenges being faced by members, including on-ground non-implementation of Right of Way (RoW) Rules 2024 by various authorities, property Tax on mobile towers, Electricity based issues and other administrative issues.

Withdrawal of Temporary Regulatory Measures on Retail Sale of Petrol & Diesel – The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) withdrew fuel availability restriction at retail outlets with effect from 01.07.2026, thereby allowing unrestricted availability of Diesel for members at retail outlets, providing relief to the telecom industry from the temporary restrictions affecting fuel availability. The temporary regulatory measures were imposed on the retail sale of petrol and diesel on 12.06.2026.

District Road Safety Committee Meetings, Delhi – District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meetings were held on 01.07.2026 and 17.07.2026, under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), South-West Delhi, wherein issues related to shifting of utilities, including telecom infrastructure, were deliberated upon.

Industry Meeting with Uttar Pradesh LSA on RoW Compliance under SASCI Scheme – An industry meeting was held on 01.07.2026 under the chairmanship of DDG, UP LSA, to deliberate upon compliance with Right of Way (RoW) requirements under the SASCI Scheme and address issues impacting telecom infrastructure deployment.

Submission to Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh on RoW Alignment – A reminder submission was made on 01.07.2026 to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh, seeking alignment of the RoW permission process with the Telecommunications RoW Rules, 2024.

DERC Amendment Regulations on Green Energy Open Access – The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), on 07.07.2026, notified the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Green Energy Open Access) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2026, removing the 11 kV eligibility criterion and thereby enabling Low Tension (LT) consumers to avail Green Energy Open Access (GEOA). With this 30 States and UTs have now aligned with the Ministry of Power's GEOA amendments.

Delhi District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) Meeting – North-West Delhi's DLTC meeting was held on 07.07.2026 under the chairmanship of the

Additional District Magistrate (North-West District). Industry members participated in the meeting and highlighted key RoW-related concerns affecting telecom infrastructure deployment.

Meeting with Principal Secretary (IT), Uttar Pradesh on Industrial Tariff – A meeting was held on 08.07.2026 under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary (IT), Uttar Pradesh, with participation from UP LSA officials and industry representatives, to deliberate upon extending the benefits of Industrial Tariff to telecom infrastructure in the State. A formal submission from the industry is planned once the minutes of the meeting are issued.

Submission to Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) on Rajmarg Pravesh Portal – A submission was made on 14.07.2026 to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), highlighting challenges being faced by the telecom industry in relation to the newly introduced Rajmarg Pravesh online portal and requesting an industry meeting to discuss and resolve the issues.

Industry Meeting with Jharkhand LSA on Composite Billing under SASCI Scheme – An industry meeting was held on 17.07.2026 under the chairmanship of DDG-R, Jharkhand LSA, to discuss the status of adoption and implementation of the Composite Billing System under the SASCI Scheme, 2026–27, in the State.

Submission to Chief Secretary, Punjab on Implementation of RoW Rules, 2024 – A letter was submitted on 17.07.2026 to the Chief Secretary, Punjab, requesting support for the telecom industry by directing all concerned departments to strictly adhere to the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and Telecommunications RoW Rules, 2024, thereby facilitating timely deployment of telecom infrastructure.

1st Committee Meeting for FY 2026–27 – The first Telecom Infrastructure Committee (TIC) meeting for FY 2026–27 was held online on 22.07.2026. Shri A. K. Tiwari, Reliance Jio, was selected as the new Chair of the Committee. Shri. Manoj Misra, Indus Towers, will be the new Vice Chair. Key issues relating to Right of Way (RoW) and other matters concerning telecom infrastructure deployment were discussed in detail.

Himachal Pradesh State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting – The Himachal Pradesh SBC meeting was held on 24.07.2026 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh. Industry members highlighted key RoW-related issues and challenges affecting telecom infrastructure deployment in the State and sought necessary intervention and support from the State Government.

Arunachal Pradesh State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting – The Arunachal Pradesh SBC meeting was held on 23.07.2026 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh. Industry highlighted key RoW-related challenges affecting telecom infrastructure deployment in the State and sought support from the State Government.

Submission to Secretary - T on Jail Jammers - A submission was made to the Secretary - T on 06.07.2026, requesting support in addressing the impact being faced by the industry owing to the harmful interference to public mobile networks from uplink RF jammers installed in prison premises.

Right of Way Orders from Meghalaya Local Bodies - The Right of Way (RoW) Notifications were issued by the Aizawl Municipal Corporation and Lunglei Municipal Council during the month. These were circulated among member for their information, reference and necessary action.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 20th Customs Consultative Group Meeting: Directorate General of Export Promotion, CBIC, hosted the 20th Customs Consultative Group Meeting under the Chairmanship of Member (Customs), CBIC on 13th and 14th July 2026. Various operational and policy level issues were discussed.
- Inputs to Government on Income Tax Act, 2025: Inputs were submitted to Government on 20.07.2026 highlighting the concerns pertaining to the Income Tax Act 2025 and Rules 2026.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

i) Cell Broadcast System (CBS) for Dissemination of Emergency and Disaster-related Alerts

1) COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 30.06.2026 regarding the need for an Appropriate Governance Framework and Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for Responsible Use of Cell Broadcast Services.

2) In this regard, COAI requested DoT to institute an appropriate governance framework, including a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP), clear differentiation between emergency alerts and advisory communications, an appropriate charging framework, and a periodic review mechanism to ensure the responsible and effective use of Cell Broadcast Services.

ii) Enabling Enterprise Subscribers to Exercise the "Preferred Name" (Brand Name) Option under the CNAP Framework

1) COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 01.07.2026 regarding enabling enterprise subscribers to exercise the "preferred name" (brand name) option at either the originating or the terminating network under the CNAP framework.

2) In this regard, COAI requested DoT to clarify and permit enterprise or business subscribers to exercise the "preferred name" (brand name) option through either the originating or the terminating access provider, while ensuring that the chosen provider undertakes the prescribed due diligence, record-keeping, and accountability under the CNAP framework.

iii) Standard Power (36 dBm) Outdoor Operations in the Delicensed Lower 6 GHz Band (5925-6425 MHz)

1) COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 06.07.2026 regarding the need for expeditious notification of Standard Power (36 dBm) in outdoor operations in the delicensed Lower 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz).

2) In this regard, COAI requested DoT to expedite the notification of the necessary rule amendments enabling Standard Power (36 dBm) outdoor operations in the Lower 6 GHz band, to facilitate deployment by licensed and authorised entities and accelerate affordable broadband connectivity, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

iv) Rationalised Pricing of Microwave Spectrum

1) COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 06.07.2026 regarding the early acceptance of TRAI recommendations on rationalised pricing of Microwave Spectrum.

2) In this regard, COAI stated that rationalised pricing of microwave backhaul spectrum would strengthen digital communications infrastructure, accelerate network expansion, and serve the larger public interest.

v) Misuse of the 1600 Numbering Series for Promotional Communications

1) COAI submitted a letter to the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) on 17.07.2026 regarding the misuse of the 1600 numbering series for promotional communications.

2) In this regard, COAI requested the Indian Banks' Association to advise its member banks and financial institutions to ensure the 1600 numbering series is used exclusively for genuine service and transactional communications, refrain from using it for promotional communications, and strengthen compliance with the applicable regulatory framework.

vi) Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Consultation Paper on the Regulatory Framework for Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Communication

1) COAI participated in the Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Consultation Paper on the Regulatory Framework for Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Communication held on 23.07.2026.

2) During the discussion, COAI presented its position and views on the proposed regulatory framework for Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Communication in India.



COAI News Wires:

Telecom is no longer a vertical industry, it's national infrastructure:
DG COAI Lt. Gen. S P Kochhar.

ET Government



When Connectivity Becomes an
Intelligence Infrastructure.

Voice&Data Magazine

Telecom 2035 - Networks that
think, learn and adapt.

Communications Today





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