



COAI

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I-DIGEST

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Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

June has been a month of renewed industry alignment and forward-looking dialogue as India's telecom ecosystem continues to evolve amidst rapid technological advancements and an increasingly digital economy. From leadership transitions within COAI to important policy discussions around next-generation mobility and content delivery, the month reaffirmed the industry's commitment to building a robust, secure and future-ready communications landscape.

A key milestone during the month was the successful convening of the COAI Annual General Body Meeting 2026, where the Association announced its new leadership for 2026–27. We extend heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Rahul Vatts, who has assumed the role of Chairperson and Mr. Ravi P. Gandhi, who has been appointed Vice Chairperson of COAI. Their extensive industry experience and strategic vision will further strengthen COAI's efforts in working closely with the Government, regulators and ecosystem partners to accelerate India's digital transformation. As the telecom sector enters its next phase of growth, COAI will keep on advocating policies that foster innovation, investment, and sustainable sectoral development.

The month also witnessed important deliberations around Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) communications, a technology that will play a pivotal role in enabling connected mobility and improving road safety. As India prepares for intelligent transportation systems, it is imperative that emerging V2X services are built upon globally harmonized standards and efficient spectrum utilization. COAI continues to believe that existing telecom networks are best positioned to deliver these capabilities at scale, ensuring interoperability, security and optimal use of scarce spectrum resources while avoiding unnecessary regulatory duplication.

Another significant policy discussion during the month centred on Direct-to-Mobile (D2M) broadcasting. While the technology presents new opportunities for content distribution and emergency communications, its implementation must be guided by careful technical evaluation and a collaborative policy approach. It is essential that any future framework safeguards efficient spectrum utilization, protects existing mobile broadband services from interference and ensures that innovation complements, rather than competes with the country's rapidly expanding digital connectivity infrastructure. A consultative approach involving all stakeholders will be critical to achieving this balance.

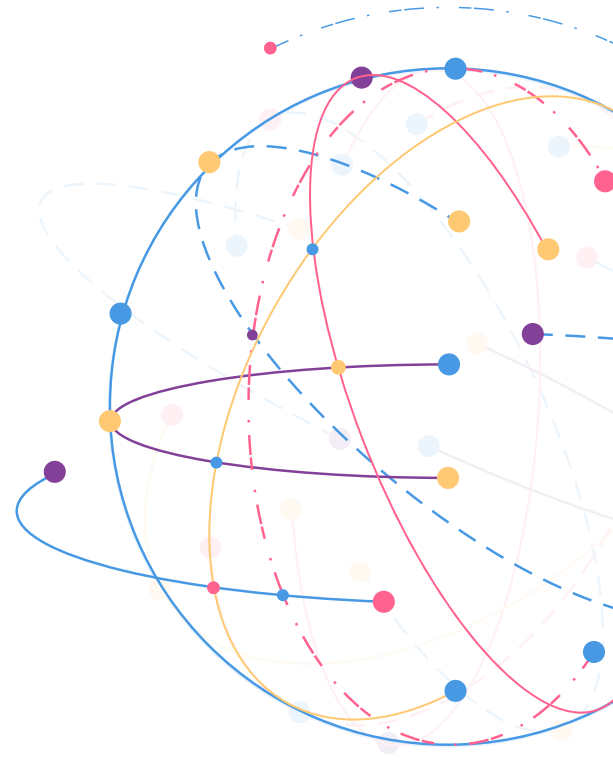
Beyond these developments, industry conversations also continued around the need for sustainable digital infrastructure, expansion of fibre networks to support India's 5G ambitions, the evolving debate on spam shifting to OTT communication platforms and ensuring that future regulatory frameworks remain technology-neutral while protecting consumer interests. As AI-driven applications and digital services continue to grow, resilient and environmentally sustainable telecom infrastructure will become even more critical to India's long-term digital aspirations.

As we move into the second half of the year, the priorities before us are clear, strengthening digital infrastructure, encouraging innovation through balanced regulation and fostering greater collaboration across the ecosystem. COAI remains committed to supporting policies that enable a secure, resilient and globally competitive telecom sector, ensuring that India continues to lead the next wave of digital transformation.



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Latest Updates:



REGULATORY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Proliferation of Public Wi-Fi Networks in India:

TRAI issued the Consultation Paper on "Proliferation of Public Wi-Fi Networks in India" on 27.04.2026. In this regard, COAI has submitted comments on 1.06.2026 and counter-comments on 15.06.2026 highlighting the diminishing relevance of public Wi-Fi vis-à-vis affordable, seamless, and ubiquitous mobile broadband, and advocated that any policy or regulatory incentives be extended to telcos as well in a technology-neutral manner.

Draft Telecom Consumers Complaint Redressal (Fourth Amendment) Regulation, 2026:

TRAI issued "Draft Telecom Consumers Complaint Redressal (Fourth Amendment) Regulation, 2026" on 7.05.2026. In this regard, COAI has submitted comments on 12.06.2026 and counter-comments on 19.06.2026 supporting enhanced consumer protection but urging that the proposed regulations remain proportionate, technology-neutral, operationally feasible, and aligned with ease of doing business, while clearly outlining responsibilities across the digital communications ecosystem.

COAI letter on Rationalisation of Bank Guarantee Requirements:

In reference to the Bank Guarantees furnished by telcos under the licensing/authorisation framework, COAI has submitted a letter to DoT, NITI Aayog and PMO on 19.06.2026 reiterating its earlier request for the waiver of all Bank Guarantee requirements applicable to telcos, to facilitate network expansion and be in line with the objectives of Digital India.

Telecommunications (Authorisation for Provision of Principal Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2026:

These rules were notified in the Official Gazette on 24.06.2026. In these rules, alternative mechanisms in place of Bank Guarantees (BGs)

have been introduced, the definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue remains unchanged, and the Licence Fee continues to be 8%.

The Telecommunications (Terms and Conditions for Migration) Rules, 2026:

These rules were notified in the Official Gazette on 23.06.2026. In these rules, voluntary migration has been partly accepted, migration of all existing licences is not mandatory, and the definition of 'pending dues' has been removed.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Adverse impact of existing restrictive EMF thresholds on 5G and future 5G Advanced/6G network deployments and request for EMF alignment with 100% ICNIRP limits

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 09.06.2026 on the Adverse impact of existing restrictive EMF thresholds on 5G and future 5G Advanced/6G network deployments and request for EMF alignment with 100% ICNIRP limits.

Cell Broadcast System (CBS) in India for the dissemination of emergency and disaster-related alerts to citizens.

1) This is with reference to the recent launch and operationalisation of the Cell Broadcast System (CBS) in India for the dissemination of emergency and disaster-related alerts to citizens.

2) In this regard, COAI submitted letter to DoT on 30.06.2026 requesting for the need for Appropriate Governance Framework and Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for Responsible Use of Cell Broadcast Services

TRAI Consultation Paper on the Regulatory Framework for Vehicle-to Everything (V2X) Communication

1) TRAI issued Consultation Paper on the Regulatory Framework for V2X Communication

on 30.04.2026.

2) In this regard, COAI submitted its response/comments to TRAI on 04.06.2026.

Telecommunications (Authorization for Provision of Miscellaneous Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2026.

1) The Telecommunications (Authorization for Provision of Miscellaneous Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2026, have been officially issued and published in the e-gazette on 25.06.2026.

2) COAI Prepared and shared the key analysis of the Final Rules and the COAI Response on the Draft Rules, with the members.

Telecommunications (Authorisation for Captive Telecommunication Services) Rules 2026

1) The Telecommunications (Authorisation for Captive Telecommunication Services) Rules 2026, have been officially issued and published in the e-gazette on 25.06.2026.

2) COAI Prepared and shared the key analysis of the Final Rules and the COAI Response on the Draft Rules, with the members.

TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Submission to Principal Secretary, Science & Technology, Madhya Pradesh: A letter to Principal Secretary, Science & Technology was submitted on 12.06.2026 on the industry concern related to Optical Fiber Cutting and coercive action in Indore and requested for immediate attention and suitable directions to prevent further disruption of telecom services in State.

GO from Municipal Administration Department, Andhra Pradesh: A Government Order dated 08.06.2026, notified by Municipal Administration, Govt of Andhra Pradesh, regarding list of Right of Way Issues in the State, to be taken up under SASCI Scheme 2026-27. This order had instructions to Commissioners, to comply with the provisions of the Telecommunications Act 2023 and the Right of Way Rules 2024. This has also helped in arresting the industry issue of Property tax notices being issued on mobile towers, apart from facilitating the industry.

Internal Meeting with Members of Maharashtra: An internal Meeting with the members of Maharashtra was held on 22.06.2026, on the RoW related issues for taking up with Chief Secretary during the upcoming SBC meeting. All members attended and participated in the same.

Internal Meeting with Members of Andhra Pradesh: An internal Meeting with the members of Andhra Pradesh was held on 24.06.2026, on the RoW related issues for taking up with Chief Secretary during the upcoming SBC meeting. All members attended and participated in the same.

Update on Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI):

During the month, NBM shared list of pendencies which were highlighted to the States, to encourages governments to streamline procedures under the Right of Way (RoW) Rules 2024, to accelerate the rollout of digital infrastructure. Updates were taken from Members and shared with NBM.

Industry concerns related to Telecom Infra deployment in the State of Meghalaya:

Post consultation with members, a Communication has been sent to Northeast LSA requesting support for industry engagement with the State Govt. of Meghalaya to resolve on ground telecom infra deployment issues. An Awareness session has been proposed as a part of this industry engagement exercise, which should include all RoW permission and EMF related challenges being faced by the industry.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Assam:

Participated in the Assam SBC meeting on 29.06.2026, which was chaired by Secretary IT. Industry's concerns related to offline applications were highlighted, which were well received by the Chair.

Submission to Chief Secretary, West Bengal:

A submission was made to Chief Secretary, West Bengal on 25.06.2026, highlighting the current industry concerns and requesting for timely processing of RoW applications in West Bengal.

SASCI related meeting in Meghalaya:

COAI Attended the BharatNet (ABP) and SASCI Meeting organized by Chief Secretary, Meghalaya, on 05.06.2026. COAI attended the meeting and presented industry's concerns.

Ladakh UT 9th Broadband Committee meeting:

The UT 9th Broadband Committee meeting was held on 04.06.2026 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Ladakh. Few important industry issues were deliberated during the meeting.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) order on Way Leave Charges:

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has issued an order on 09.06.2026 granting exemption from Way Leave Charges for telecom infrastructure, in line with the MCD notification dated 27.03.2024 and the provisions of the Telecommunication Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024.

Industry meeting with Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Gujarat:

An industry in-person meeting was held with Secretary DST, Gujarat on 11.06.2026. All current compiled industry issues were explained to the chair by the industry lead by COAI. Some positive outcomes are expected soon. A formal submission followed on the issues highlighted on 24.06.2026. **Municipal Corporation Chandigarh**

(MCC) meeting on common/shared utility duct infrastructure: Municipal Corporation Chandigarh (MCC) held a meeting on 12.06.2026, with the telecom industry and other stakeholders, to deliberate on the proposal for development of common/shared utility duct infrastructure in Chandigarh.

Jammu & Kashmir UT Broadband Committee meeting: Jammu & Kashmir UT Broadband Committee meeting was held on 23.06.2026, chaired by the Chief Secretary, J&K. Key industry concerns pertaining to pole charges and industrial tariff were raised during the meeting.

District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) meeting of North District, Delhi: DLTC meeting of North District, Delhi was held on 23.06.2026 chaired by the Addl. District Magistrate (North District Delhi). Industry participated and some fruitful discussions were held.

Industry submission to Hon'ble MoC on RoW Policy Alignment by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH): Industry submission was made to Hon'ble MoC on 24.06.2026, requesting for department's support in getting MoRTH aligned with the RoW Rules 2024, since the industry is being unnecessarily burdened by additional financial outflow.

Uttar Pradesh nomination of Nodal Officer for SASCI scheme: The Uttar Pradesh government has nominated a Nodal Officer for implementation of the SASCI scheme 2026-27, on 25.06.2026. It is expected that this will help the industry in enhanced implementation of the RoW Rules 2024.

District Road Safety Committee meeting, South-West Delhi: Members from Delhi circle attended the District Road Safety Committee meeting chaired by SDM, South-West Delhi on 30.06.2026, to discuss the issue of utility shifting (Water Supply Lines, Sewer Lines, Electrical Cabins, Telecom Utilities, etc.) along Najafgarh-Kakrola Road and Phirni Road in connection with the development of the Model Safe School Zone.

Industry meeting with DDG, UP LSA: An industry meeting was held on 30.06.2026 chaired by DDG, UP LSA for deliberation on implementation of RoW issues under SASCI Scheme FY 2026-27. The latest compliance status was taken from the industry.

Diesel Availability Restriction at Retail Outlets: Government of India on 11.06.2026 issued notification restricting the availability of Diesel at retail outlets, thereby leading to major industry operational challenge. A submission was made to the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) and Secretary T, highlighted the concerns. In-person

meetings with Member T and DDG Disaster Management, DoT, were also held. This order has now been withdrawn and the status quo will be maintained starting 01.07.2026.

Data Governance Committee

A. Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025.

- COAI continued its engagement with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on the implementation of the DPDP Act, 2023 and the DPDP Rules, 2025, facilitating industry discussions on key implementation and compliance issues.

- During the stakeholder meeting held on 8 June 2026, MeitY clarified that no Significant Data Fiduciary (SDF) notification is presently under consideration and that any future notification would be preceded by stakeholder consultations. It was also indicated that the Data Protection Board is expected to be operational by August 2026, interoperability standards for the Consent Manager framework may be developed in consultation with sectoral regulators, and existing DoT and CERT-In audit mechanisms may be leveraged for DPIA-related compliance.

B. Draft Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Unsolicited and Unwarranted Business Communications (UUBC).

- Following stakeholder engagements with DoCA and DoT, a meeting of the Working Group on the Draft UUBC Guidelines was convened on 25 June 2026. Per industry discussion, the Draft Guidelines have been recirculated for stakeholder comments to further refine the definitions and revisit the scope of applicability.

- Further, the composition of the Working Group will be expanded to include additional stakeholders to facilitate finalisation and notification of the Guidelines. COAI will continue to engage with the relevant ministries and industry stakeholders to support the development of a balanced, technology-neutral and future-ready regulatory framework for unsolicited business communications.

Bharti Airtel's Rahul Vatts named COAI Chairperson for 2026-27.

PTI: The Economic Times



World Environment Day 2026: Industry leaders call for technology, climate finance and sustainability-led growth.

ANI

Digital divide: India's public Wi-Fi push sparks debate over use of government funds.

Mint

