



COAI

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I-DIGEST

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CONTENT

- 3 From DG's Desk
- 4 COAI Latest Updates
- 8 News Wires





LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

With the world around us continuously adapting newer ways to connect with people & share information over significant distances through electronic means, it becomes needless to tell how important telecom sector is.

Recently, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued recommendations on telecom spectrum auction early this month. We at COAI expressed dissatisfaction with the recommendations as spectrum price recommended by TRAI is fairly high which will pull us back from building a digital India. The reforms introduced by the Government in 2021 were a bold step forward towards revitalising the telecom sector for ensuring rapid roll-out of 5G services in the country, however, some of the recommendations by TRAI seem contrary to the same. We hope that the Government will take into account the submissions of the industry and also will keep the spirit of the reforms in finalizing the details of 5G auction.

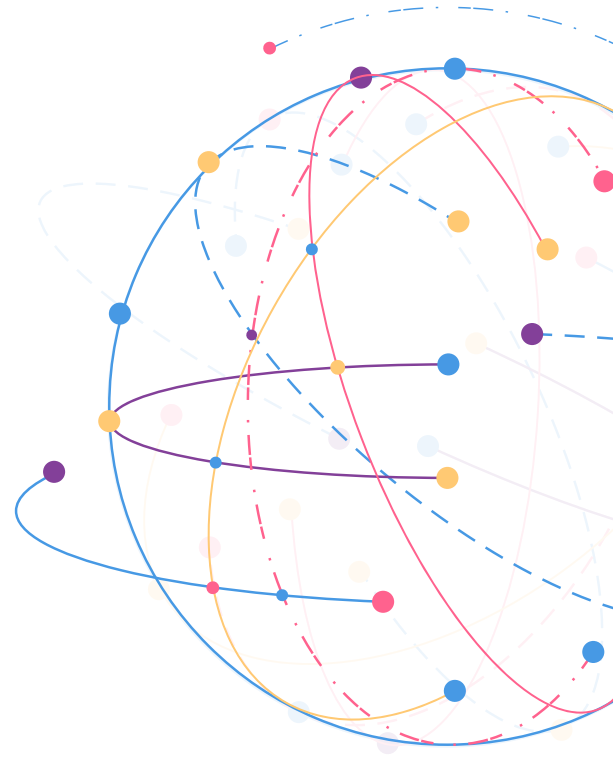
Also, as we all know deployment of small cells is a key driver in 5G roll out, COAI strongly supports the use of street furniture to deploy small cells. Small cells are a necessity in order to upgrade India's existing 4G networks. We are happy that DoT has released the report on Small Cells standards prepared by TEC. The regulator is also conducting Pilots on installation of small cells.

At last, but not the least, with COVID cases rising again in many parts of the country, it is essential for us to follow COVID appropriate behaviour. Use your masks properly, maintain necessary distance wherever possible & keep your surroundings sanitised. Stay safe & keep one around you safe.



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Latest Updates:



Parameters for Internet Protocol Detail Record (IPDR) and SYS LOG of Network Address Translation (NAT)

A joint industry letter has been submitted to DoT on 29th March 2022, stating the practical challenges associated with the implementation guidelines dated 16th November 2021 issued by DoT for storage for 'Parameters for Internet Protocol Detail Record (IPDR) and SYS LOG of Network Address Translation (NAT)' and requested to put this guidelines/requirement in abeyance and hold an Industry discussion as per practice followed by DoT in the past for revision of any CDR format.

In this regard, DoT scheduled a meeting on 12th Apr 2022 vide which DoT has asked all the TSPs/ISPs to implement the said DoT guidelines by 30th April; if 30th April is not possible then latest by 05th May 2022.

TRAI CP on "Use of Street Furniture for Small Cell and Aerial Fiber Deployment"

COAI has submitted a request letter to TRAI seeking extension in timelines for submitting the written comments to the Consultation Paper. The due date for submission of comments was 20th April 2022 and counter-comments was 04th May 2022.

TRAI has considered our request and grants extension till 11th May 2022 for the submission of written comments and counter comments up to 25th May 2022.

Reduction in Regulatory Levies - USOF Contribution

COAI has submitted a follow-up letter to DoT on 31st March 2022 and requested for the below:

- USO levy should be abolished
- However, if that is not possible immediately, the current levy should be reduced to 1% from the present 5%
- If that is also difficult, then we request that the current Fund balance should be utilised first and until then, collection of USO levy should be stopped. Post exhaustion of fund, if rural connectivity is still an issue in any area, then such levy should be decided annually basis the

funds required for a particular year.

Reduction in Regulatory Levies - License Fee Contribution

COAI has submitted a follow-up letter to DoT on 04th April 2022 and requested that License Fee should be brought down to 1% at the earliest to cover admin costs by the DoT/Government.

Cloud based service offering by new licensees

COAI has submitted a letter to DoT on 31st Mar 2022. Vide this letter we have highlighted to DoT that the Mobile Series and LRN codes have been allotted to an Access Service licensee to provide Internet Telephony Services. However, the said licensee does not have spectrum, access network and pan India license. This has raised serious concerns in the industry as internet telephony, through mobile series, is akin to Mobile Services and will compete directly with mobile service providers who have invested in spectrum, access network and all India licenses.

DoT M2M Consultative Committee meeting

DoT has scheduled the meeting of M2M Consultative Committee on 5th April 2022 with industry stakeholders and asked to submit the written submission by 22nd April 2022 regarding M2M/IoT issues.

Alignment of RoW Policy of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) with RoW Rules, 2016

A reminder submission was done to the Secretary (RT&H) on 22.04.2022 regarding the formation of Uniform Telecom Infrastructure Policy for MoRTH aligned with Notified RoW Rules, 2016.

Additional Trade License Fee @ 10000/ per Tower per Annum levied by Madurai Municipal Corporation

COAI submitted a letter to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu regarding laying of Trade License Fee @ 10000/ per Tower per Annum by Madurai Municipal Corporation. At COAI's request, the Municipal

Commissioner of Madurai Municipal Corporation issued a letter stating that 'the same has been kept in abeyance'.

Issues hindering roll-out of Digital Infrastructure across Uttar Pradesh

Post Uttar Pradesh SBC meeting held on 28.03.2022, COAI submitted a letter on 13.04.2022 to Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh.

3rd SBC meeting for Lakshadweep UT held on 8th April 2022

COAI raised industry issues during the 3rd SBC meeting for Lakshadweep UT held on 8th April 2022. Some of the industry issues raised were regarding provision of Aerial OFC deployment in RoW Policy of UT, allotment of Govt. land & buildings for installation of Digital Infrastructure across the UT, etc.

4th SBC meeting for Telangana State held on 29th April 2022

COAI raised industry issues during the 4th SBC meeting for Telangana State held on 29th April 2022. Some of the industry issues raised were high Charges for Small Cell installation and Tower installations. Also, GHMC not charging rates as per Telangana State RoW policy. COAI also raised issue regarding the safety of Telecom Infrastructures in the State and other issues.

Increase in charges for Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) by Aurangabad Municipal Corporation

COAI's letter was submitted to Secretary, DoT on 18.04.2022 on the issue of "Unjust increase in charges for Optical Fibre Cables ("OFCs") by Aurangabad Municipal Corporation from telecom service providers in violation of prescribed charges as per ROW Rules of the Union Government. Based on COAI's submission to the Secretary of DoT, a letter was issued by the Department of Telecom (DoT) Maharashtra LSA to the Chief Secretary (Maharashtra) on 22.04.2022 regarding RoW charges demanded by telecom. infrastructure by Aurangabad Municipal Corporation.

Rajasthan RoW Policy implementation issues

COAI's raised the industry's concerns during a meeting chaired by Shri Kunjilal Meena, IAS, Principal Secretary (UDD), Rajasthan held on 18.04.2022 to discuss "National Broadband Mission on Common Duct and other Charges. The issue regarding the Non-implementation of the Rajasthan Order by Jaipur Development Authority, Rajasthan was also discussed in the same meeting. Hon'ble Principal Secretary (UDD) once again instructed his team to abide by the orders issued by Rajasthan Govt and requested member operators that in case of a gap, the issue should be brought to his notice in person.

Electricity supply on priority and at Industrial Tariff to Digital Infrastructure

COAI's submission was done to State Electricity Regulatory Commissions for EB supply on priority and at Industrial Tariff of J&K, Ladakh, Mizoram, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Delhi.

Provision of Aerial OFC in Haryana Policy

COAI's submission was done to Chief Secretary (CS), Haryana on 19.04.2022 to make amendments in the existing RoW Policy of Haryana to have Aerial OFC provision by using the EB poles.

District level telecom committee meeting held across Delhi

I. DLTC meeting of North District held on 06.04.2022

a) No participation of officials of North DMC in both DLTC meetings of North District.

b) Wayleave charges by North DMC were reduced to INR 200/- per meter. Order copy to be shared by North DMC.

c) North DMC has withdrawn its regressive order dated 20.09.2021. Order copy to be shared by North DMC

d) As per the order dated 08.03.2022 by South MCD, they are accepting pole site applications (new/regularisation) @Rs 20,000/- per pole /per operator for five years. North MCD to issue a similar order.

e) Refund of Security amount: Security deposit of approx. 20 million to be refunded by authority even after work of restoration is completed and paper also submitted on GSDL portal. The same need to be refunded on an immediate basis.

f) Pending Tower, OFC and EB connection permissions to be expedited. De-seal the sealed towers.

II. South East DLTC Meeting held on 04th April 2022: A committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Kapil Chaudhary (SDM) including Shri Sanjeev Kumar Sharma (DIO) as Member Secretary and other members from DoT and COAI to resolve telecom issues.

VC meeting with Delhi LSA on 12-4-2022 regarding RoW issues

VC meeting was held with Delhi LSA on 12.04.2022. Some of the issues discussed during the meeting were speedy grant of pending permissions, rationalisation of RoW charges, across Delhi, NoCs are not being given for taller than 15 meters, Safety & Security of Telecom Infrastructure, etc.

Mizoram RoW Portal

COAI coordinated for the online trailing of members for the Mizoram RoW Portal on 08.04.2022. Mizoram Portal was made operational on 16.04.2022.

Nagaland RoW Portal

COAI raised the issue of the non-availability of RoW Portal of Nagaland during the State Broadband Committee meeting of Nagaland held on 18.03.2021. The Government of Nagaland launched the official 'Right of Way (RoW)' portal for setting up telecom/telegraph infrastructure in the State' on April 27, 2022.

District Level Telecom Committee meetings across North-East

COAI coordinated for participation of members during DLTC meetings of Sirchhip (Mizoram) held on 27.04.2022; Chandel (Manipur) held on 21.04.2022 and Thoubal (Manipur) held on 12.04.2022. Industry's concerns like pending permissions, etc. were shared with District Collectors of the respective committees for resolution.

Formation & notification of RoW Policy of Delhi in alignment of RoW Rules, 2016

Based on COAI's request to Chief Secretary, Delhi during the 3rd SBC meeting of Delhi held on 28.03.2022, a letter was written by the IT Department to the UD department of Delhi on 06.04.2022 to have a meeting of all Delhi Authorities like NDMC, MCDs, PWD, DDA and Delhi Cantonment to expedite the formation of RoW Policy of Delhi in alignment with RoW Rules, 2016.

Based on various submissions and engagements done by COAI with DoT in the past, a reminder D.O letter was sent by Secretary, DoT to the Chief Secretary (CS) of Delhi on 06.04.2022 for notification of RoW Policy of Delhi in the alignment of RoW Rules, 2016.

At COAI's request, DG(T) had also written on the issue to CS, Delhi on 01.04.2020, 28.09.2021, and on 23.12.2021 earlier. Further, a meeting was conducted by DoT Chaired by Additional Secretary (DoT) with the representatives of three Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Industry Associations on April 28th, 2022 wherein the issue of the notification RoW Policy of Delhi in the alignment of RoW Rules, 2016 was discussed.

Draft Policy guidelines on RoW for Establishment of Telecom Infra

Based on inputs received from the members, COAI's Comments on the 'Draft Policy Guidelines on RoW for Establishment of Telecommunications Infrastructure' was shared with DoT on 21.04.2022.

EMF Awareness interview of Dr Danish Salim, PRS Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram

COAI coordinated with Kerala LSA, DoT for an exclusive interview of Dr. Danish Salim, Head of Accident & Emergency Medicine, PRS Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram coordinated and recorded in Malayalam. This recording was done as part of DoT's (Kerala LSA) public advocacy program to make the general public aware of the need for mobile towers and dispel misconceptions regarding any harmful impacts of emissions from cellular towers and also to inform the general public that there is no link between 5G technology and spread of Covid 19.

Integration of Portal for OFC permission of Delhi with Centralised RoW Portal

Based on COAI's request to the Chief Secretary, Delhi during the 3rd SBC meeting of Delhi held on 28.03.2022, a letter was written by the IT Department to the Geospatial Delhi Limited (GSDL) on 06.04.2022 for Integration of Portal for OFC permission of Delhi with Centralised RoW Portal.

Usage of Govt. properties of PWD for Aerial OFC laying

Based on COAI's request to the Chief Secretary, Delhi during the 3rd SBC meeting of Delhi held on 28.03.2022, a letter was written by the IT Department to the Secretary, PWD on 06.04.2022 to form 'Framework/ architecture for the usage of Govt. properties for overhead OFC and mobile towers'.

Response submitted to TRAI on their Consultation Paper on "Promoting Networking and Telecom Equipment Manufacturing in India"

TRAI issued a consultation paper on the subject on February 11, 2022, to submit comments till April 1, 2022. COAI made a submission to TRAI on April 01, 2022, on the matter.

Instructions for issuing new mobile connections in case of bulk mobile connections category

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on March 04, 2022 and March 23, 2022 on the subject wherein COAI requested DoT to kindly extend the timelines for updating end user details for bulk connections by 6 months.

Based on the submissions made by COAI, DoT issued a notification on April 11, 2022 providing extension on the same till 30.09.2022.

Implementation of Central Monitoring System (CMS)

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on April 20, 2022 on the subject requesting DoT to hold discussion with security agencies/stakeholders to expedite increase in utilization of CMS for LI provisioning and only after a reasonable acceptance of CMS for LI, efforts to be made to make additional features of CDR and SDR functional.

Meeting with Member (GST, CX, ST & Legal), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance

Meeting was held with Shri D.P. Nagendra Kumar, Member (GST, CX, ST & Legal), CBIC on 20.04.2022 in the Ministry of Finance, at North Block.

Following issues were discussed during the meeting.

- a) Clarity that input tax credit (ITC) is available on critical telecom equipment installed on telecom towers
- b) Multiplicity of Compliance, Audits, Investigations and Litigation for Large Pan India service providers
- c) Removal of GST on License Fees, Spectrum Usage Charges and on Payment of Spectrum acquired in auction
- d) Service Tax on RoW
- e) Service Tax liability on AGR

- f) Tax on self-supply of service
- g) Issues related to compliances

Meeting with Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance

Follow up meeting was held with Shri Vivek Johri, Chairman CBIC on 26.04.2022 in the Ministry of Finance at North Block. Following issues were discussed during the meeting.

- a) Clarity that input tax credit (ITC) is available on critical telecom equipment installed on telecom towers
- b) Multiplicity of Compliance, Audits, Investigations and Litigation for Large Pan India service providers
- c) Tax on self-supply of service
- d) Service Tax on RoW

Implementation of E-Invoicing

As per the government notification regarding implementation of e-invoicing, any organisation having turnover above Rs 20 cr in any financial year between the period from July 01, 2017, to March 31, 2022, need to implement E-invoice in the organisation from 01.04.2022. E-invoicing includes printing of bar code / QR code from GSTN portal on all invoices / credit notes before sending the same to the concerned person.

To ensure the compliance, necessary changes / customisation is being done and process of E-invoicing is being implemented from 01.04.2022.



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News Wires:

5G spectrum pricing too high: COAI

The COAI on Tuesday expressed 'deep disappointment' over regulator TRAI's recommendations on 5G and termed the specification pricing suggested by the regulator as "too high". [Read more](#)



Low Fiberization leads to a 5G success story roadblock: Telcos, infra providers

Fiberisation is essential. It is essential for 5G and as only about 30% of our tower are fiberized, and this is despite the government's push for fiberisation, DG COAI said. [Read more](#)



COAI lauds information shared by Government on mobile towers EMF radiation

"The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that connectivity is essential, more than ever before for citizens and the telecom industry ensured the availability and continuity of telecom operations throughout the country for e-learning, through the various online platform, attending classes/ offices from home, OTT services, etc. [Read more](#)





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