



COAI

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I-DIGEST

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LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

In today's world sustainability is crucial given its significant influence on people and our planet. Telecommunication industry is continuously fostering sustainable steps for green growth through energy efficient technologies and optimising network infrastructure.

Moving forward in the same direction, Ministry of Power has introduced a significant development through the gazette notification on the Second Amendment of the Electricity Rules, 2023 (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access). This amendment has allowed for aggregation of load by multiple connections served by the same electricity division of a Discom to avail the services of renewable energy under the open access route. Therefore, the telecom towers, which have individual power energy load requirements of ~10 kW each, can now consume electricity based on the aggregated load of multiple towers under the same Discom division, and offset it with renewable energy.

COAI lauds this progressive measure by the Ministry of Power also thanks the Secretary, Ministry of Power, TRAI Chairman and DoT for the continuous support on this important aspect of power supply requirements for telecom infrastructure. This positive step will ensure telecommunication industry's contribution towards a sustainable future. This will also help in achieving country's renewable energy goals.

The amendment will further address issues related to reliability, grid stability and consumer protection, while emphasizing on strengthening the regulatory framework controlling the electricity sector, for ensuring energy efficiency measures. We believe this step is also an acknowledgement of the importance of telecom as an essential infrastructure industry and its manifold benefits for the nation and our citizens.

We would also like to welcome the launch of the Sanchar Saathi portal by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and DoT. This initiative will catalyse secure and safe empowerment of mobile subscribers across the country. COAI congratulates the Government on this initiative, which will help in bridging the digital divide through digital literacy among the citizens. It will especially act as a boon for the rural Indian populace, enabling them access to government schemes, services and initiatives, while connecting people to the broader digital ecosystem.

We also witnessed an increasing trend of spam and fraudulent calls emanating and terminating through OTT Communication platforms in recent times, which vindicates the concerns expressed by the TSPs time and again. Such OTT calls will be difficult to be stopped by the TSPs as they have no control over the OTT platforms from where



these calls emanate. These calls carry a potential of serious security risks and financial frauds, and hence COAI reiterates its stance as conveyed to the Government consistently in the recent past – that is, bringing OTT Communication platforms under the same rules and regulations as applicable to the TSPs.

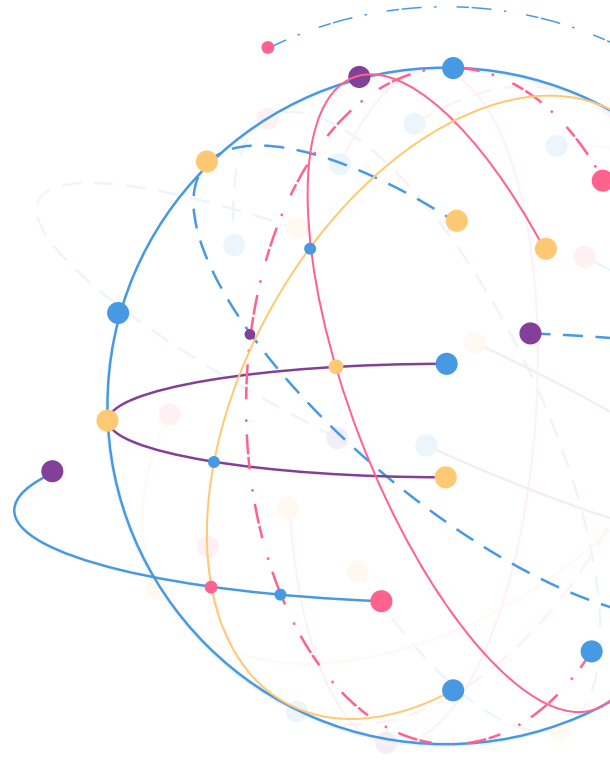
As is globally acknowledged and appreciated, the telecommunication industry plays a pivotal role in today's interconnected world, and we remain committed in our endeavours to keep advancing towards continuous growth and improvements in the same.

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



COAI

Latest Updates:



TRAI Recommendations on “Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector”

TRAI released the Recommendations on EoDB on 2nd May 2023. The recommendations are positive for the industry and would be beneficial to the service providers.

Critical Services in M2M sector

DoT vide its letter/email dated 22nd March 2023, has circulated a list of critical M2M services and sought inputs by 15th April 2023. A meeting was held in DoT under the Chairmanship of DDG (NT) on 26th April 2023, to discuss about issues related to M2M/IoT. Vide its letter/email on 01st May 2023, DoT extended the time for submission of the same to 15th May 2023. COAI has submitted the letter to DoT accordingly.

Relaxation of restrictive features of M2M services

DoT vide its letter/email dated 22nd March 2023, has circulated a list of critical M2M services and had sought inputs by 15th April 2023. A meeting was held in DoT under the Chairmanship of DDG (NT) on 26th April 2023. DoT has sought detailed note/letter w.r.t. identifying the critical services, to be submitted by 30th April 2023.

Relaxation of restrictive features of M2M services

DoT, vide its letter dated 24th March 2023, sought inputs on restrictive features on M2M services by 10th April 2023. COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 12th April 2023, requesting for an industry meeting on the same. Subsequently, a meeting was held in DoT on 26th April 2023, under the chairmanship of DDG (NT) to discuss the issues related to M2M/IoT. DoT has sought a detailed letter covering all concerns that were raised in the meeting along with use cases/justifications, to be submitted by 15th May 2023, which was duly submitted.

Storage of CDR/IPDR for two years

DoT amended the UL on 21st December 2021, mandating storage of CDR/IPDR for two years. COAI submitted a letter on 16th May 2023, requesting DoT to reduce the storage period to one year instead of two years.

Review of Port Charges

COAI submitted a letter to TRAI requesting to review and reduce the Port Charges prescribed vide The Telecommunication Interconnection (Port Charges) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2012 on 18th September 2012.

Open House Discussion

Open House Discussion was held on 24th May 2023, on the Consultation Paper on “Telecommunication Infrastructure Sharing, Spectrum Sharing, and Spectrum Leasing”.

Guidelines for Audit of the Metering and Billing System and accuracy of Metering and Billing in LSA

Open House Discussion was held on 19th April 2023 on the Consultation Paper on “Licensing Framework and Regulatory mechanism for Submarine Cable Landing in India”, wherein COAI participated and presented its views.

Guidelines for Audit of the Metering and Billing System and accuracy of Metering and Billing in LSA

TRAI released Draft Regulation on Review of The Quality of Service (Code of Practice for Metering and Billing Accuracy) Regulations, 2023 on 24th February 2023, and time was granted to respond to the same until 1st May 2023. COAI duly submitted the response to the said Draft Regulation.

COAI-GSMA webinar on ‘5G: Future Outlook and Safety Aspects’

COAI and GSMA jointly organised a Webinar on 22nd May 2023 on the above subject. Member-T, DCC graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and delivered a Special Address. Renowned Subject Matter Experts as well as speakers from the Industry and GSMA provided their expertise on the theme of the webinar.

Request for Industry deliberation on issues pertaining to Circular no. 08/2023 issued on 13th

March 2023 by CBIC

- This is with reference to the Circular No. 08/2023 issued by CBIC on Telecom equipment in the context of notification No. 02/2019-Customs dated 13th March 2023, amending notification No. 57/2017-Customs dated 30th June 2017, issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue.
- In this regard, a COAI letter requesting for Industry deliberation on issues pertaining to the Circular No. 08/2023 was submitted on 16th May 2023.

Industry Consultation w.r.t. E-waste (Management) Rules, 2022

- In reference to the recent Gazette notification no. CG-DL-E-02112022-239987 on E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC), on 2nd November 2022; a COAI letter was submitted to MoEFCC and DoT, conveying the Industry's concerns and requesting for appropriate deliberations with the industry.
- On 9th May 2023, a meeting was held with the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The telecom industry has been permitted time till 30th June 2023, to register on the CPCB Portal as per the E-waste (Management) Rules, 2022, instead of the earlier deadline of 1st May 2023.
- Recently, an industry meeting was also held in this regard, which was chaired by Member (T).

COAI Additional Comments on the TRAI Consultation Paper on "Issues related to FM Radio Broadcasting"

Apropos the discussions held in the TRAI Open House on Issues related to FM Radio Broadcasting on 26th April 2023, COAI submitted its additional comments to TRAI for consideration.

State-Wise Updates:

Jharkhand -

5G Working Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Secretary (IT) for rolling out 5G services in the Jharkhand state. COAI participated and made submissions to Secretary (IT) on related matters, requesting for urgent notification of amended Jharkhand RoW policy and also requested the State Government's support to overcome various challenges in faster 5G adoption.

Punjab -

Submission was made to Chief Secretary post SBC meeting held under his chairmanship on 17th April 2023, to discuss RoW related issues. COAI requested the support of Punjab Government regarding alignment to RoW Amendment Rules, 2022, Regularisation of Towers and other RoW related issues.

Haryana -

SBC was held on 25th May 2023, under the chairmanship of CS, wherein COAI actively participated, highlighted various concerns of the members and emphasized on

need for early adoption and notification of Central RoW amendments. CS directed officials to work judiciously on the amendment and expedited the process. Accordingly, a 5G Working Committee meeting has been scheduled on 1st June 2023, for finalization of the proposed amendment in the CCIP Policy, 2017 in-line with the RoW Amendment, 2022. Inputs/suggestions have been sought from the industry on the draft amendment. COAI will participate and work with the state government and LSA for complete alignment.

Uttar Pradesh -

Noida Authority served notices to landlords who have installed telecom Mobile towers in their premises. COAI apprised Secretary (Telecom) and also CS, UP on this matter. Delhi LSA met Chief Secretary (Uttar Pradesh) along with UP East LSA, basis the submissions made by COAI. The Chief Secretary assured that no coercive action will be taken and confirmed that UP RoW Policy will be notified soon in line with the RoW (Amendment) Rules, 2022, for a permanent solution to such recurring issues. In parallel, COAI is also working with the office of CEO, Noida, for an in-person meeting, to find an amicable solution to the current situation.

Delhi -

COAI submitted letter to MCD Commissioner against "No digging permission" on roads under the MCD jurisdiction, to relook at such a blanket ban. The matter is under consideration with the Addl. Commissioner (Engineering) for further action. COAI is following up with the concerned office for a positive outcome.

Maharashtra -

Submission made to Deputy Chief Minister on 23rd May 2023, requesting for an in-person meeting with the Telecom Industry. The proposed meeting aims to discuss - (i) Implementation of the State RoW policy and its guidelines in letter and spirit by all local authorities, (ii) Doing away with re-registration of already registered telecom infrastructure, which requires resources for rework with no tangible value addition, (iii) Rationalization of charges for regularization of existing telecom towers, (iv) Stopping of coercive action on telecom infrastructure by local authorities, and (v) Provision of Common Duct for laying of OFCs in all newly built CC roads and express/highways, in addition to few other issues. The industry will be requesting for an early resolution to these concerns.

Telangana -

Submission made to Chief Secretary on 24th May 2023, for facilitating robust Telecom Infrastructure in the State of Telangana via implementation of the amendments Issued by the GoI on 17th Aug 2022, in the state. Permission for laying overhead OFC, active use of CBuD app by all concerned and making Government Land and Building available for use were highlighted, and suitable actions were requested at the earliest.

Chhattisgarh -

Submission made to Chief Secretary on 23rd May 2023, requesting to implement the amendments notified by Gol on 17th Aug 2023, and also notifying the State RoW Policy. It was also requested to share the draft RoW policy with the industry for their inputs/suggestions.

Telangana -

The 5th SBC Meeting of Telangana was convened on 9th May 2023, chaired by the Chief Secretary and attended by all major Principal Secretaries of the State. COAI highlighted the issues of high small cell charges, alignment of new RoW policy with amendments issued by Gol on 17th Aug 2022, request to put telecom industry in Industrial rate category for providing electricity, implementation of CBuD application by all concerned departments, etc.

Rajasthan -

The 7th SBC Meeting of Rajasthan was convened on 18th May 2023, along with the 5G capacity conference. The meeting was chaired by the Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan with senior level state officials also

attending. COAI raised the issues of imposing additional charges in the new RoW policy, delay in getting RoW permission from Forest department, implementation of CBuD application by all concerned and other RoW related concerns of the members.

West Bengal -

A letter to Chief Secretary, West Bengal was written on 11th May 2023, regarding the removal of demand notes for property tax raised by several local bodies for Telecom infrastructure.

Ministry of Power -

After much persuasion and constant advocacy with Ministry of Power (MoP), the ministry issued a Gazette Notification allowing Load Aggregation for availing Green Open Access energy - **A major win for the Industry's advocacy efforts.**

The notification mentions that "any consumer who has contracted demand or sanctioned load of 100kW or more either through single connection or through multiple connections aggregating 100 kW or more located in same electricity division of a distribution licensee" is now eligible.

Sanchar Saathi: Now subscribers can track, block lost cell phone via portal

The Department of Telecommunications has launched an artificial intelligence-based portal that will allow tracking and blocking of lost and stolen mobile phones.

[Read more](#)



Telcos to push DoT, TRAI to make OTTs share cost of 5G network infra

India's top telcos are set to once again push the DoT and the TRAI to evolve a mechanism for making over-the-top apps- that generate maximum data internet traffic- pay for creation of 5G digital network infrastructure in the country.

[Read more](#)



Telcos petition DoT to halt new e-waste rules

Telecom operators have sought urgent intervention of the telecom department to prevent implementation of an order from the environment ministry which requires them to remove older active infrastructure equipment from telecom towers to meet targets set under e-waste management rules issued in 2022.

[Read more](#)



World Telecom Day 2023: Making technology accessible for everyone

By connecting the unconnected, ICTs are capable of opening doors to vast realms of knowledge, fostering innovation and creating opportunities for individuals and communities alike.

[Read more](#)



ET Telecom Roundtables: Jio, Airtel, COAI on 'Killer' 5G use cases in India, policy bottlenecks

The 5G roadmap was discussed including new use cases of the fifth-generation network technology, infrastructure readiness and challenges in the telecom industry.

[Read more](#)



COAI welcomes move to allow load aggregation for Green Energy Access

COAI welcomed the gazette notification on the second amendment of the electricity rules, 2023 by the Ministry of power, which has allowed for aggregation of load by multiple connections served by the same electricity division.

[Read more](#)



COAI Events

6G India 2023 International Conference

"Instead of a security overlay based on an earlier layer-based approach, end-to-end security solutions would be required for #6G. Security in 6G needs to be incorporated into the design of the system from the drawing board," said @DGCOAI at the 6G India 2023 Int'l Conference.



5G: Future Outlook and Safety Aspects'

GSMA APAC and COAI organised a webinar on '5G: Future Outlook and Safety Aspects', which was graced by Indian and Global experts from government organisations and the industry.

Lt. Gen. Dr. SP Kochhar, DG, COAI, delivered the welcome address at the webinar.



State Broadband Committee meeting

The State Broadband Committee aims to advise, either suo-moto or on a request from the Governing Council or Steering Committee on the matters.

The meeting's focus was to resolve Right of Way related issues as well as boost 5G network deployments in Haryana. The meeting was graced by Sh. Sanjeev Kaushal, IAS, Chief Secretary, Haryana and Haryana LSA.





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

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