



COAI ISSUE
APRIL 2024

I-DIGEST

Connecting the World

News for you,
information that matters

CONTENT

3

From DG's Desk

5

COAI Latest Updates

7

News Wires





LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

Artificial Intelligence currently stands at the forefront of technological advancements in the digital world, driving policy discussions and regulatory actions worldwide. India's pursuit of digital economy leadership also underscores the imperative of a solid AI infrastructure, as it aligns well with this aim of technological advancement. While Gen AI seems to be the area of focus for all today, its efficacy is contingent upon the ecosystem that facilitates its operations, including the vital embedded AI and a templated data input system from local sources to ensure effective outcomes. It is crucial to build the apt infrastructure by prioritizing the fundamental components of AI ecosystems. This will not only fortify our position in the global tech arena but also ensure sustainable and inclusive growth of our nation in the digital age.

The advent of AI also demands the incorporation of advanced technologies, like Graphic Processing Units (GPUs) into systems, for efficient computing and data processing. Further, with the mushrooming of GCCs in India, there arises a pressing need for expanded network reach and bandwidth to meet their needs. Such heavy investments need to be planned appropriately by the telcos and the proposed fair share contributions can help maintain some balance in this regard. It is imperative that the government takes critical note and addresses this crucial issue promptly. This conversation expands globally and India's proactive stance could set a significant precedent for the rest of the world.

COAI has already established through its facts & statistics based White Paper that large traffic generating (LTG) platforms should contribute equitably to the upkeep and enhancement of the telecom networks they heavily utilize, in light of their enormous profits. We also informed the government that the absence of fair share coupled with ₹10,000 crore additional capex spent by telcos to accommodate the disproportionate LTG traffic, is resulting in significant losses of around Rs. 800 crores in AGR dues, direct and indirect taxes such as GST. The LTGs must pay the fair share from the profits generated from advertisements and subscriptions, rather than passing it on to the subscribers.

Indian telecom operators have sought the government's intervention against the illegal sale of Wi-Fi 6E wireless routers in the country via e-commerce websites and online platforms to consumers. We highlighted that the Department of Communications (DoT) is yet to take a policy decision regarding the utilization of 6 GHz band. Therefore, any sale of such Wi-Fi 6E products which utilizes the 6 GHz spectrum band is illegal and would result in unauthorized transmissions in our country.



We have requested DoT to kindly intervene in the matter and implement strict measures to ban the sale of Wi-Fi products operating in the 6 GHz band by issuing appropriate notification to sellers of such products in the country.

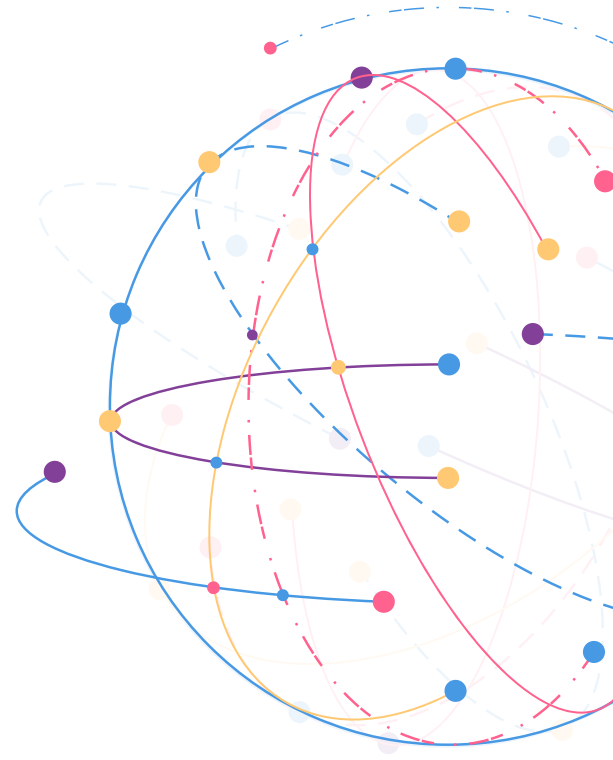
As COAI has consistently emphasized, the 6 GHz band, considered vital for 5G services, can help augment the performance and reach of 5G in India, while also fulfilling the deficit of 2 GHz of mid-band spectrum required for an effective 5G rollout in the country. Going forward, the fast-evolving trend of digital convergence across sectors, particularly with the advent of 5G, 5G+ and future 6G, is expected to give rise to more bandwidth heavy applications/services, thereby increasing the demand for spectrum which would need to be met inevitably and effectively.

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



COAI

Latest Updates:



Recommendation on applicable spectrum for WRC-27 AI 1.13 in India

- COAI made a submission to WPC on 03.04.2024 that India should strategically discourage the inclusion of bands allocated to IMT services in India, which constitute wide coverage (>95%) across the country, for MSS allocation consideration under AI 1.13.
- India may adopt a neutral stance on specific MSS allocation proposals for other IMT bands put forth by region 3 countries.
- India should emphasize the focus of WRC27 AI 1.13 on MSS allocation for complementing IMT rather than independent MSS allocations.

Illegal 6 GHz Wi-Fi CPEs being made available in the Indian market

- COAI submitted a letter to DoT, on 15.04.2024 requesting to take strict measures to put a complete ban on sale of Wi-Fi products operating in the 6 GHz band, whether offline or online through e-commerce websites/platforms, through an appropriate notification to sellers of such products in the country.

Consultation paper on Auction of Frequency Spectrum in 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40 GHz, and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands Identified for IMT:

TRAI released a Consultation paper on **Auction of Frequency Spectrum in 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40 GHz, and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands Identified for IMT** on 04.04.2024. COAI vide its letter dated 25.04.24 sought extension of 6 weeks from TRAI in order to respond to the same. TRAI extended the last date for submitting the response to 16.05.24. COAI is in process of finalising its response on the paper.

100 Days Plan for the Department of Telecom

Based on the inputs received from Members, we have captured the industry challenges and concerns related to the Fair Share charge, identification of critical M2M

services, Reduction in License Fee. Abolishing/Reduction of USOF levy, MTCTE, ComSec and E-waste (Management) Rules 2022.

MATCOF held on 10.04.2024 for updation of Hypervisor and 4G Nodes

Based on the inputs received from Members, COAI is seeking clarity and an extension on the applicability for the Virtualized 4G Core Nodes under MTCTE regime. In this regard a MATCOF was held on 10.04.2024.

Letter to DoT on Instruction issued during Lok Sabha Elections

We submitted a letter to DoT requesting to not use RBT/CT for creating awareness during elections. We further submitted that the awareness should only be spread through SMS and the cost per SMS should be paid to TSP by ECI.

Additional Comments to TRAI CP on QoS: Based on Open House Discussion (OHD) held on 09.04.2024

We submitted additional comments to TRAI CP on QoS wherein we have requested for formation of working group to analyse and provide inputs on the Draft regulations on QoS to be released by TRAI.

Counter Comments to TRAI CP on Connectivity to Access Service VNOs from more than one NSO

We submitted our Counter comments on the TRAI CP stating that mandating NSOs to enter into VNO agreements, and ceilings on bulk bandwidth rates offered by NSO/TSPs to VNOs, must be rejected altogether. We countered suggestions made by other stakeholders which were against the interest of the TSPs.

COAI reminder requests to States for adoption of updated RoW policy

Reminder submissions were made to States of Tamil

Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland for adoption of amendment to DoT's RoW policy of 2022 and 2023.

COAI reminder requests to State Electricity Regulatory Commission for Implementation of Green Open Access Regulations

Reminder to the States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, West Bengal, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar were made during the month.

COAI made reminder requests to State Electricity Regulatory Commissions for Implementation of composite billing scheme for multiple power connections

Reminder submissions made to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Puducherry, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, West Bengal, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar.

6th SBC Telangana

6th SBC was convened on 02.04.2024, chaired by Chief Secretary, Govt of Telangana. COAI raised issues related to pending adoption of amendments of state RoW policy and also the challenges members are facing due to acceptability of current State RoW policy by civic agencies, Permissions issues and Utilization of street furniture, organizing regular District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) meetings, Incentivization to the industry on Electricity related matter and other matters of members' interests.

Submission to Chief Secretary, Govt of Telangana

A Submission to Chief Secretary, Govt of Telangana was made post 6th SBC on 10.04.2024. In this submission all important points discussed during the state broadband committee meeting were shared for support.

West Bengal Meeting of Governing Body of State Broadband Policy

A meeting was held on 04.04.2023 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the state. COAI highlighted all the industry concerns, the CS was receptive of the concerns, and we expect positive outcome. A formal submission was also made to the West Bengal government on 26.04.2023 highlighting all the Right of Way and related issues faced by our members.

Submission to Secretary (T) on issue related to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)

A Submission made to Secretary (Telecom) on 02.04.2024 to seek his support for alignment of RoW policy of MoPNG.

The Oil and Gas companies are imposing exorbitant charges for providing RoW permission to our members and the same has been highlighted and sought immediate support.

RoW issues related to National Highways/NHAI

A meeting was held by National Broadband Mission on 02.04.2024, to review the RoW permission issues of NH/NHAI.

Old RoW Pendency in Bihar

A meeting was held by National Broadband Mission on 24.04.2024 to review the old period RoW pendency (of 2021 and 2022) in the state of Bihar. The deliberation will help in clearing unwanted data and streamline the factual position of pendency.

Submission to Vadodara Municipal Corporation

A Submission was made to made to Municipal Corporation (VMC) on 15.04.2024 to highlight the serious concern being faced by members on sealing of telecom infrastructure and offices, seeking urgent intervention and support.

Submission to Surat Municipal Corporation

A Submission was made to made to Municipal Corporation (SMC) on 16.04.2024 for alignment of RoW Charges with Amended Indian Telegraph RoW 2016 Rules. Members are facing challenge in getting permissions on reasonable rates.

Way Leave charge by MCD reduced

MCD vide its notification dated 07.02.2024 started charging Way Leave charge of Rs 200/meter. COAI vide its submission requested MCD to withdraw the notification of charging any kind of 'Way Leave' charge for the purpose of Telecom RoW permissions. Subsequently, MCD vide its clarification dated 27.03.2024 has withdrawn the Way Leave Charges for Telecom Infrastructure.

RoW permission restrictions in Punjab

A Submission was made to made to Secretary (Telecom) on 25.04.2024 to seek support from his office for lifting restrictions on Right of Way (RoW) permissions for Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in Punjab, which apparently being stopped citing model code of conduct during the ongoing general elections.

Government losing 800 Crore annually in tax collection from top OTT players

Citing an in-house study, SP Kochhar said that telecom service providers spent Rs. 10,000 crore additional in capital expenses (capex) in 2023 to augment network infrastructure supporting seamless data traffic consumed by top OTT players.

[Read more](#)



Essentials for an effective AI mould for India

The knowledge of embedded artificial intelligence and GenAI's wisdom need to work efficiently together to produce fruitful results.

[Read more](#)



Harnessing the power of terahertz technology in ICT

THz technology can bridge the gap between the technical and regulatory landscape, ushering in an era of communication that is faster, more reliable and adaptable.

[Read more](#)



Telcos need to invest in AI, large apps need to share revenue: COAI

As per industry body, COAI, the increasing convergence of diverse verticals and technologies is expected to lead to more bandwidth-heavy applications emerging, applying further presence on the networks, and necessitating heavier investments in the same.

[Read more](#)



Telcos dial DoT to stop illegal sale of Wi-Fi routers in India

TP Link, Déco, Netgear and Google and more are the vendors selling their wi-fi 6E routers in India via platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, etc.

[Read more](#)





COAI

News Wires:

Telecom Diary: Explainer: Fair share debate heats up, put telcos at odds with OTT players

COAI has been demanding 'same service same rules' with a fair charge to be levied and decided mutually between telcos and OTT players who must contribute.

[Read more](#)



India should define world leading spectrum roadmap for future telecom networks: GSMA

A futuristic spectrum roadmap, he added, will instill confidence in the industry about the availability of airwaves and enable telecom carriers to move ahead with business cases.

[Read more](#)



Telcos unanimous in opposing TRAI tougher quality norm proposals

Telecom operators have demonstrated rare unanimity in opposing the sector's regulator's proposal to have more stringent provisions for improving the quality of services

[Read more](#)





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

Get to know us better. Our social media platforms are a great way to learn about our upcoming events, opportunities, latest trends and more. Follow us and join a diverse group of people across the nation and all around the world

Follow us on:

