COAI

I-DIGEST

CONNECTING THE WORLD

News for you , Information that matters

> signal origin:
> lat 33.621937
> lon 17.047852

extern const Point ORIGIN;
CStream decode_stream(const double src) {}

locate(Point &src, Point &dest) {}

> satellite connection est
> receiving data... .....

> decryption in progress (67%)

> authentication VERIFIED
> sending packet #45601E3A75
> sending packet #56AC33E7C1

contents

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

FROM DG'S DESK

In 2024, the Indian telecom industry stands at the forefront of transformation, driven by the visionary goals set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, particularly in the pursuit of 6G technology. The remarkable achievement of completing the 5G rollout in just 10 months across 22 licensed service areas reflects the industry's commitment to progress. As we navigate the digital convergence accelerated by 5G and anticipate the advent of 6G, there arises a crucial need for collaborative investments in network infrastructure. To ensure a fair distribution of responsibilities, a mechanism must be established, especially considering the burgeoning app economy.

While digitalization promises heightened efficiency and productivity, it brings forth challenges in security, network stability and data management. The adoption of 5G introduces new cybersecurity risks, such as IoT security threats and data privacy concerns. However, with the implementation of robust security measures, these risks can be effectively mitigated. Artificial intelligence plays a pivotal role in both defending against and perpetrating cyber threats, emphasizing the necessity of continuous commitment to security at all societal levels.

As the nation embraces the 5G era, the responsible management of the electromagnetic spectrum becomes paramount. Collaboration, innovation and an ethical commitment to leverage this invaluable resource for the greater good will determine India's position in the global technological landscape.

In 2024, the telecom sector must also address sustainability and environmental concerns, with a focus on green practices, energy efficiency and responsible e-waste management. Regulatory changes aimed at fostering growth, innovation and consumer protection are expected, setting the stage for a transformative year.

In conclusion, the Indian telecom sector is poised for continued growth and evolution in 2024. With strategic investments and forward-looking strategies, it can play a pivotal role in driving digitalization, economic development and an improved quality of life for millions of Indians.

Looking ahead at interim Budget 2024, we propose key measures to enhance the financial health of the industry. Our recommendations include the elimination of the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) Levy, a specialized tax regime for telecom carriers, relief from customs duty on network gear imports and exemption from goods and services tax (GST). These measures, if implemented, will significantly contribute to advancing India towards a resilient and inclusive digital future.

We strongly urge the government to prioritize telecom infrastructure development in the forthcoming budget, addressing regulatory challenges. This strategic approach will unlock the full potential of this pivotal sector, propelling India towards a robust and inclusive digital future.

Latest Updates

Temporary Suspension of Internet Services

We submitted a letter to DoT on 19.01.2024 to urgently provide appropriate instructions and guidelines to State Governments to discourage the issuance of orders for temporary internet service suspensions without any genuine emergency/law & order issue.

Identification of Critical Services in M2M Sector

We submitted a letter to DoT on 15.01.2024 requesting to finalize the decision on Critical Services in M2M sector in order to prevent security issues and financial losses to the National Exchequer in the sector as well as to avoid potential complexity of retrospective regulatory compliance.

TRAI Consultation Paper on "Digital Inclusion in the Era of Emerging Technologies"

TRAI issued the Consultation Paper on 14.09.2023.We have held meeting with members and circulated the draft response amongst the members on 29.12.2023. In our response, we submitted that TSPs have played a key role in creating the necessary digital infrastructure, and distribution of digital opportunities across India. Tele-density including rural tele-density, data usage per subscriber, average outgo per subscriber, number of digital payments, are some of the good indicators for evaluating and monitoring digital inclusion in the country. These parameters are already tracked by the Government.

Draft "Technical Report on Direct Broadcasting to Mobile Handheld Device

a)This is with respect to TEC email dated 29.12.2023 vide which it has shared the updated "Technical Report on Direct Broadcasting to Mobile Handheld Devices". The last date to submit inputs to TEC was 15.01.2024.

b)In this regard, COAI has submitted its response to TEC on 31.01.2024.

Submission of EMF Self certificates

a)This is with reference to the DoT order issued on 13.05.2023 wherein the timeline for the submission of self-certificates of new Base Transceiver Station (BTS) and upgradation cases for conformity to EMF exposure was extended till 15.05.2024.

b)In this regard, COAI submitted a letter to DoT dated 10.01.2024 requesting that EMF exposure compliance requirements be held in abeyance for further 6 months i.e., till 15.10.2024.

TRAI CP on "Encouraging R&D in Telecom, Broadcasting and ICT Sector"

a)TRAI released the said Consultation paper on 29.09.2023 and at the request of the industry allowed to submit the respond to the Consultation paper till 15.01.2024.

b)In this regard, COAI has submitted its response on the said consultation paper.

National Trust Center for IoT/M2M Devices and Application

a)TEC held a meeting with all stakeholders - TSPs, M2M service providers, WPAN/WLAN connectivity providers, IoT/M2M Device Manufacturers, IoT/M2M Application Service Providers, IoT/ M2M Platform provider to deliberate on various aspects of development and implementation of National Trust Center (NTC)

b)NTC for IoT/M2M Devices and Applications is being developed to manage and address vulnerability issues of IoT devices reported by IoT/Smart city platforms working in the network.

NTIPRIT Webinar for "The Telecommunications Act 2023"

a)The webinar on "The Telecommunications Act 2023" organized by NTIPRIT on 10.01.2024. A detailed presentation was given on the subject clearing the doubts.

b)During discussion questions were raised w.r.t to upcoming Telecom Act Rules.

Further, COAI compiling and working on the Rules of the Act.

COAI submission to Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC)

Industry comments/suggestions on the Petition relating to the Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) and Electricity Tariff proposals for FY 2024-25, was made for UT of Puducherry on 24.01.2024.

COAI submission to Secretary (T) on high charges for IBS permission at Jaipur Airport

A letter was written to Secretary (T) on 16.01.2024 regarding IBS permission charges related issue with Jaipur Airport Authority. It was also requested to Secretary (T) that RoW rules under the new Act be finalized at the earliest to streamline RoW permissions for telecommunications infrastructure at airports and other public places.

COAI

Latest Updates

COAI Letter requesting Inclusion of Telecom in IT / ITeS Policy

Industry submissions were made to include "Telecommunications" under the definition of IT/ITeS companies, and all incentives be extended to the sector accordingly. It is pertinent to note that the IT/ITeS policy of many states like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, etc. have already done this and such an action will support the State in achieving the objective of the policy while strengthening the digital progress and advancement of the State. These submissions were made to all balance states and UTs during the month.

COAI Submission to Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission

A submission was made on 08.01.2024 requesting to Put Telecom Services in Industrial Tariff Category, as part of suggestions/objections/comments on the Annual Tariff Finalization exercise.

COAI Letter to Principal Secretary (IT), Govt of Kerala

On 05.01.2024, an industry submission was made on the Draft Kerala Right of Way Policy 2023. COAI requested for alignment of the same with the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 and its subsequent amendments, as issued by the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, which would be a stepping-stone for realizing the vision of a Digital Kerala. Suggestions/comments on various clauses of the draft was made. It was emphasized that incorporation of suggestions would support faster roll out of 5G services in the State, besides developing a robust digital communications infrastructure.

SBC of Kerala Govt held on 24.01.2024

The State Broadband Committee meeting was organised by Govt of Kerala on 24.01.2024 chaired by Chief Secretary, Govt of Kerala. All the industry issues were highlighted by COAI during the meeting, like pending notification of amended RoW policy, extending electricity connection under Industrial tariffs, Aerial Policy for NHAI Roads, Pole charges misalignment by various corporations like Trivandrum Corporation, Tower constructions in Costal Regulation Zone (CRZ)/Wetland areas, improvements in the online SUGAMA Portal, extension of Rule -64 exemption Order, CoW installation etc. As a follow up, a formal submission is planned.

SBC of Maharashtra Govt held on 29.01.2024

The State Broadband Committee meeting was organised by Govt of Maharashtra on 29.01.2024 chaired by Chief Secretary, Govt of Maharashtra. Issues related with permissions for underground Fibre deployment, aerial fiber installation, High restoration charges etc. were raised by COAI during the meeting.

COAI letter to Chief Secretary (UP) to allow telecom establishments to remain open

A submission was made on 18.01.2023 to the CS (UP) requesting that the services provided by the TSPs, being an essential service, be allowed to function (with minimum staff), including the offices, stores and call centres.

COAI letter to Chairman (CAQM) and Member Secretary, DPCC

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Submission post Chandigarh 5G Working Committee meeting

Post the meeting held in December 2023, a submission was made on 03.01.2024 to the Secretary I.T. cum Home Secretary, Chandigarh Administration for his support on faster roll-out of 5G services.

Network coverage enhancement in Ayodhya

With the support of the State Govt and UP LSA, our members successfully created robust network coverage in Ayodhya for the inaugural event of Shri Ram Mandir on 22.01.2024. The efforts of the industry were appreciated by the state government.

Draft RoW Policy by NDMC

A draft policy for Right of Way (RoW) was shared by NDMC on 03.01.2024 for installation of telecom infrastructure including both underground and overground. NDMC had invited public comments/ suggestions on the Draft policy by 18.01.2024, which were submitted by COAI on behalf of the industry. NDMC called for an in-person meeting on 31st January 2024 to discuss the submissions made, COAI attended along with members.

Latest Updates

State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) meeting of Himachal Pradesh

A SLCC meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Director, Department of Digital Technologies and Governance, Government of Himachal Pradesh on 06.01.2024. Main point for discussion was on the appeal regarding the installation of a mobile tower in the matter of Smt. Poonam V/s State of H.P.

COAI Letter to Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya

Submissions were made requesting the state governments to adopt the DoT Right of Way Rules 2016 and its amendments thereof.

EMF Awareness event was organised by the Department of Telecom, Delhi LSA

On 12.01.2023, Delhi LSA held a EMF awareness session for students and faculty at Delhi Technological University, Delhi. The event was well received, the students asked and got clarification on their doubts and myths.

COAI letter was written to NBM regarding the Right of Way issues in the state of West Bengal

A submission was made to DDG NBM on various issues the industry is facing in the state of West Bengal, including the RoW Policy charges, coercive action etc.

COAI Letter to the Arunachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission

Submission was made to Arunachal Electricity Regulatory Commission on 24.01.2024, requesting them to implement the Ministry of Power's green open access rules amendment.
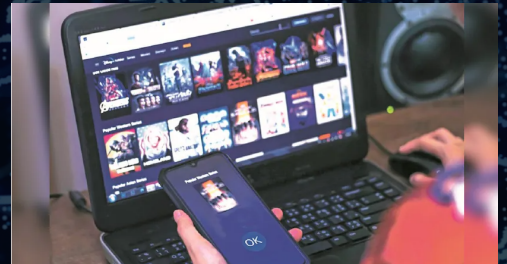
News Wires :

Price wars: Startups, smaller OTTs may be exempted from fair share charge

COAI has said in the latest submissions to the government that four-five large traffic generators can't be exempt from the charge.

Read more

Utilisation and need for adequate spectrum

Spectrum underpins various services that consumers rely on daily, such as mobile communications, Wi-Fi connectivity, broadcasting and satellite- based services.

Read more

Navigating the Indian telecom landscape in 2024

As India digital fabric unfolds, the telecom sector remains essential, carrying information, connecting people and driving process.

Read more

Budget 2024-25: COAI recommends abolishing USOF levy, exemptions in custom duty and GST

COAI in its FY25 budget recommendations to the Ministry of Finance, has suggested abolishing the USOF levy, introducing a special tax regime for telecom carriers, exemptions on custom duty on import of network gear, and exemptions of Goods and Services Tax (GST), among others.

Read more

News Wires :

Telcos push for D2M policy relook to ensure level playing field

Telecom operators have sought a reassessment of the government's draft policy around establishing direct-to-mobile (D2M) networks to ensure a level-playing field and have warned of the possibility of regulatory arbitrage if such a policy is implemented hurriedly.

Read more

Telcos seek more airwaves for smooth 5G services, 6G rollout

The telecom industry has urged the government to make available more airwaves for smooth delivery of 5G and 6G services.

Read more

Telecom Diary: 5G era: Cybersecurity threats loom large

Concerns over cyber threats continue to grow and remain at the top of the list for causes of organizational disruption with 57% of respondents in APAC region.

Read more
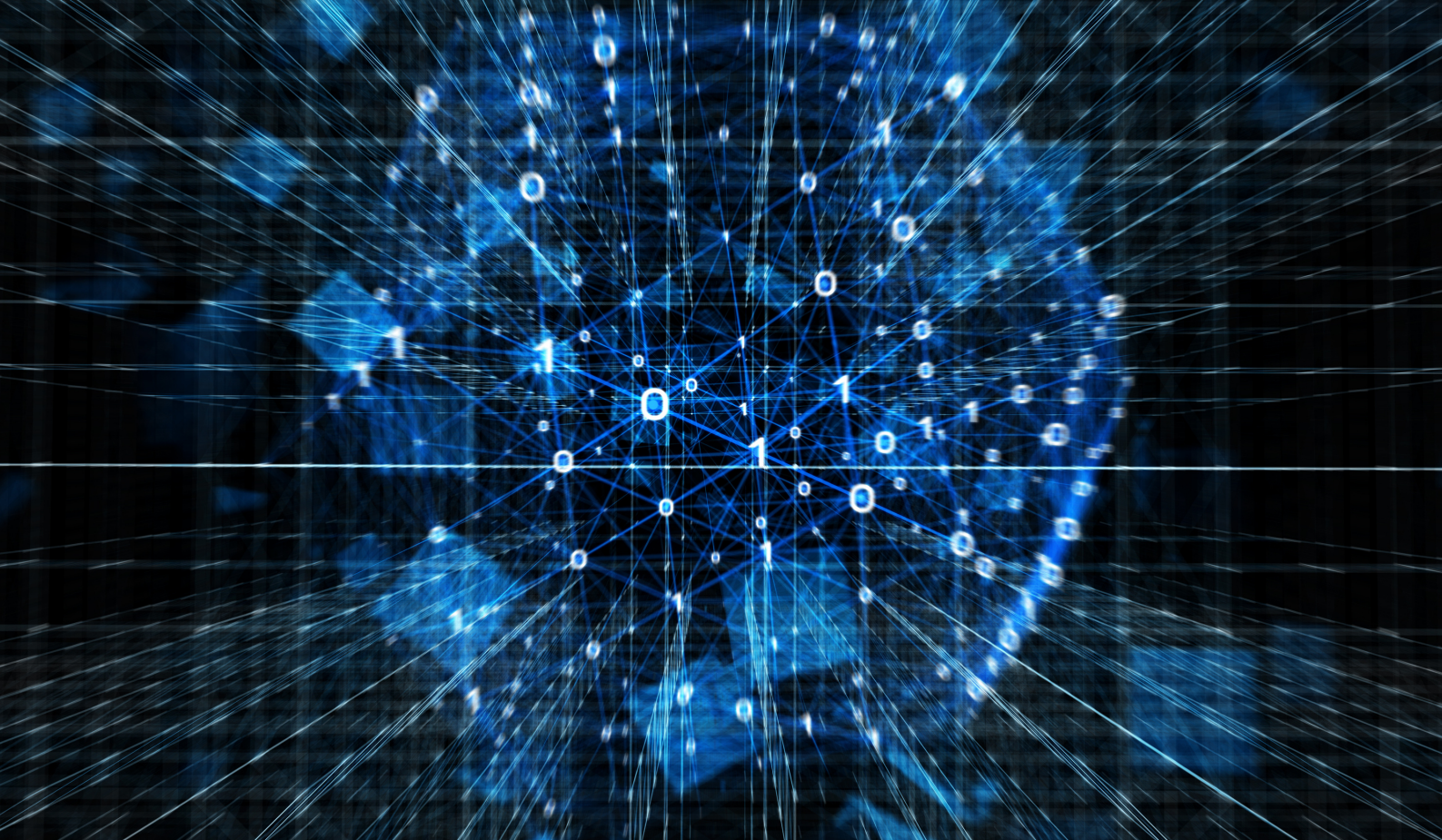
Events

31st Convergence India Expo 2024

Convergence India expo is at the forefront of India's 'Digital Revolution' and a hub for future technologies, innovation and everything that is 'smart' and 'sustainable'. The expo is the go-to destination for trends in the fields of telecom & broadcast, IoT, IT solutions, cloud, big data & analytics, AI, mobiles & accessories, embedded tech, blockchain, fintech, digital gaming and much more. Convergence India provides an international platform for Indian industry to grow and emerge as a global leader.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure: Strengthening Coastal Telecommunications Infrastructure Resilience

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions that aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development. During the Webinar on Strengthening Coastal Telecommunications Infrastructure Resilience, CDRI & DoT India explored strategies & innovative solutions for strengthening #resilience of coastal telecommunications #infrastructure. The webinar attracted + participants from countries.

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upcoming events, opportunities, latest trends and more. Follow us and join a diverse
group of people across the nation and all around the world