

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI organizes International Regulators Roundtable on Collaborative Regulations using RegTech and Technology Platforms and a Seminar on 'Collaborative Regulations: Co-creation and sharing of Infrastructure (in sync with PM Gati-Shakti)'.

New Delhi, 18 May 2022– On the historic occasion when country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, of completing 75 years of independence, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has also completed 25 Years of its existence. TRAI has dovetailed its silver jubilee celebration with 'Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' and on account of this, TRAI organized events that had two parallel themes – (1) International Regulators Roundtable on "**Collaborative Regulations using RegTech and Technology Platforms**" and (2) Seminar on '**Collaborative Regulations: Co-creation and sharing of Infrastructure (in sync with PM Gati-Shakti)**' on 18th May 2022, at Hotel Ashok, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

As a regulator, TRAI's role has been marked by high degree of professional competence in techno-legal regulatory and policy matters. The telecom reforms in India and TRAI's regulations have been a matter of interest globally and followed by many countries. TRAI has been continuously evolving to face new challenges that dynamic Telecom and broadcasting sectors keeps presenting. Technological innovation and Information Communication Technologies have become crucial to foster socio-economic development of a nation. The next generation communication technologies are providing innovative solutions to address numerous challenges in core sectors like education, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, banking and financial, power, city

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administration, managing ports, airports and rail networks. Innovative digital technologies have blurred the boundaries – not only between various sectors within a country, but also between different countries. The way these technologies are used, they have forced the regulators to work together and collaborate both across sectors within the country and with regulators of other countries. Realizing the same, TRAI as part of its silver jubilee presentation has organized an event at New Delhi that was woven around two themes that ran in parallel – First one, a Regulators Roundtable on Collaborative regulations using Regtech and Technology platforms where international regulators interacted with each other to see how collaborative approach can work and second one was a seminar where speakers from various sectors within India shared their thoughts on how Collaborative Regulations can be used for Co-creation and sharing of Infrastructure across sectors. The event aimed to take forward the PM GatiShakti initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji that has already showed the path of Integrated planning and coordinated implementation for infrastructure connectivity projects.

A special Ministerial Session was organized and was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal as a Chief Guest, Hon'ble Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, TRAI Chairman Dr P D Vaghela, Member TRAI Ms Meenakshi Gupta and Secretary, Department of Telecom Sh. K. Rajaraman. All the dignitaries at the Ministerial Session spoke about new evolving regulatory processes which are being adopted by regulators in taking decisions.

The Seminar was well attended by more than 150 participants. While discussing Inter-Governmental collaborative approach for co-creation and sharing of Infrastructure across multiple sectors the participants in seminar discussed several possible areas of collaborations. Multilateral approach to creation and feasibility of infrastructure sharing in telecom and power sector possibilities and challenges was also deliberated. The


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infrastructure owned by the power sector distribution utilities in cities can be utilized by the telecom operators for the deployment of 5G Small cells. Alliances can be made with power DISCOMs, cable operators, and municipal authorities for using their utility poles for small cell deployments and for providing optical fiber backhaul to these small cells, LT electric poles can be utilized subject to compliance of safety requirements. Cross-sector partnership between Telecom and Power sector can benefit both sectors through increased scales, leveraging shared resources through various areas of collaborations, inter-alia, including the following: -

- i) Cross-sector collaboration for Aerial/underground fiber deployment
- ii) Cross-sector collaboration for 5G Small Cells deployment
- iii) Cross-sector collaboration for smart metering, smart grid monitoring

Another theme that was discussed during the seminar was on creation, utilization, and joint use of common utility corridors by cross-sectoral stakeholders and owners of infrastructure developed primarily for purposes other than the provision of public services. The primary infrastructure underpinnings for the operation of modern economic and social systems are common utility corridors or networks, which include gas, electricity, water, and telecommunications etc. Creation of common utility corridors and other such infrastructure minimizes duplication and costs while also accelerating rollout. The sharing partners, which include both cross-sectoral stakeholders and the infrastructure owners, benefit from increased efficiency.

Deliberations were also focused on Secure, sustainable, scalable, and collaborative approach to creation of digital infrastructure solution for smart cities in India. Smart cities are designed with all modern features established in a sustainable manner to accelerate the quality of life through connected communities, advanced infrastructure, mobility, and ambience. Smart cities should also become model of sharing and collaboration among different stakeholders striving together to achieve greater benefits



for citizens. The collaborative approach for co-creation and sharing of infrastructure under the control of smart city administrations can help in faster roll outs of digital infrastructure networks and services at affordable costs was discussed. Deliberation also took place on the need to understand what street furniture is available under various administrative setups like smart cities, Airports, Ports and Metro/Railways and how it can be effectively used for deployment of next generation telecom networks. Be it metro system, port, airport or any other such establishment digital infrastructure can be shared and deployed on the street furniture which are abundantly available and used by these authorities. The use of street furniture available with these authorities will obviate the need to have greenfield deployment of Towers or Poles for small cells thus bringing down the capital expenditure requirements for TSPs. Availability of digital infrastructure and next generation networks at these establishments will also help in creating a win-win for them as these authorities can modernize their process and establishment through 5G use cases.

To reduce the carbon footprint of telecom network and to reduce deployment cost of upcoming 5G network its imperative to promote collaboration of telecom industry with other infrastructure sectors. TRAI Chairman emphasized that considering these imperatives, all stakeholders need to have an approach where focus is not on creating more and more greenfield infrastructure, but on re-use of brownfield assets.

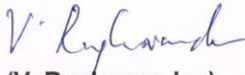
The international roundtable saw participations from international organizations like Asia Pacific Telecommunity and GSMA. Heads and representatives of International regulatory authorities from various countries like Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia Turkey and UAE who shared their thoughts on regulatory practices being adopted/proposed to be adopted in curbing spam and improving the service quality inside the buildings. Another technology discussed at this Roundtable was about Regulatory Technology (or RegTech) which is the management of the regulatory process through information technology to enhance regulatory and compliance processes. RegTech helps regulators and stakeholders to enhance transparency and

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consistency, and it helps to standardize regulatory practices such that higher quality regulation can be provided at much lower cost.

The deliberations in the International Regulators Roundtable focused on leveraging technology to find solutions on probable policy interventions or new regulatory approaches to design, deploy, operate, expand, and upgrade digital connectivity infrastructure inside buildings and other areas. Another focus area of discussions was to develop a methodology to measure and evaluate quality of experience in buildings and other areas to empower end users to get requisite infrastructure for digital connectivity, whether on their own, or via agents working in their interest, or by nudging relevant entities. International regulators discussed that to curb Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC), it is extremely essential to follow a collaborative approach among various stakeholders while using new technologies like blockchain, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to create an environment where subscribers do not have to suffer the nuisance of UCC and spam in their daily lives. The international participants showed interest in TRAI's initiative and regulations in this regard. At the end of the session, it was agreed that a summary report will be prepared about the sessions and will be circulated to all participants.

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