TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

E-NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman-TRAI with Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary General-ITU (International Telecommunications Union) at the World Summit on International Society (WSIS) 2023 at Geneva, Switzerland on 14th March 2023

Recommendations

TRAI released its recommendations on "Issues related to Community Radio Stations (CRS)" on 22nd March 2023

A Community Radio Station (CRS) serves the interests of the community concerned through dissemination of relevant information, ideas and knowledge.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting requested the Authority to provide its recommendations, on the following issues:
  (i)   Inclusion of not-for-profit companies, registered under Section 8 of Companies Act 2013, in the list of eligible organizations.
  (ii) Increasing of license period from existing period of 5 years to 10 years.
  (iii) Maximum duration of advertisement per hour of broadcast on CRS.
  (iv) Number of CR Stations operated in each district of operation by Not-for-profit organizations, operating in multiple districts.

TRAI, after consultation with stakeholders, released its recommendations to the Government.

Key recommendations:

  i.   The existing criteria prescribed in MIB guidelines barring certain type of entities for setting up Community Radio Stations are equally applicable to section 8 companies also.
  ii.   Reiterates recommendations regarding disqualification of religious bodies from owning broadcasting channels including Community Radio Station as mentioned in its 'Recommendations on Issues relating to entry of certain entities into Broadcasting and Distribution activities' dated 12th November 2008.
  iii. The initial period of permission should be increased from five (5) years to ten (10) years, at a time.
  iv.   Present policy guidelines for extension/ renewal of CRS license are adequate and should continue to be the same.
  v.   The duration of advertising on a CRS should be increased from seven (7) minutes per hour to twelve (12) minutes per hour.
  vi.   Not-for-profit organizations, operating in multiple districts, should be allowed to set up multiple CRS in their area of operation.
  vii. An organisation should be allowed to set up a maximum of six (6) CRS throughout the country.
  viii. An organisation seeking to set up multiple stations should submit an undertaking confirming that the programs will be prepared locally and not sent from other CRS.
  ix.   The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) may actively pursue with Central and State Governments to sponsor more programmes on CRS for helping CRS in their sustainability.

x.   All the universities of Central/State Governments may be provided budgetary support to establish and operate Community Radio Stations. MIB may actively pursue providing license/ spectrum for such universities.
xi. All the processes for granting CRS should be done online through a single window system.
xii. SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Radio Frequency Allocation) clearance should be granted within one month of application. Grant of WOL (Wireless Operating License) license should also have a prescribed period preferably within one month of application.

https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_22032023.pdf

TRAI released its recommendations on "Promoting Local Manufacturing in the Television Broadcasting Sector" on 31st March 2023

Digitalization of the Indian broadcasting sector began in year 2012 and was completed across the country by March 2017. It provided a unique opportunity for the growth of local manufacturers to cater to the demand.

The Authority with the objective of realistically assessing India's true potential in equipment manufacturing and to arrive at the recommendations to the Government that would enable Indian Broadcasting equipment manufacturing sector to transition from an import-dependent sector to a global hub of indigenous manufacturing, has suo-motu issued a Consultation Paper on "Promoting Local Manufacturing in the Television Broadcasting Sector" on 22nd Dec 2021.

TRAI, after consultation with stakeholders, released its recommendations to the Government.

Key recommendations

a.   There is a need to focus on emerging technologies and tenets of the era of convergence and aim at building an ecosystem for broadcast equipment. A Centre of Excellence may be established for broadcast equipment or existing Telecom Centres of Excellence may be upgraded to focus on broadcast equipment as well.

b.   Enable organizations like Telecom Export Promotion Council (TEPC), or some similarly placed organization to promote and facilitate exports of locally manufactured broadcast equipment.

c.   Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC), Department of Telecommunications should be mandated to test and standardise all the broadcast equipment.

d. Strengthen existing R&D (Research and Development) Centres in the public sector, such as C-DOT. Develop a local R&D ecosystem along with industry participation through PPP route. Create 'Technology development Fund' to promote R&D and development of local products/ technologies for Broadcasting Sector. Incentivize use of local CAS (Conditional Access System), review outcome of such measures to promote R&D and standardization.

e. A go-to market strategy may also be adopted for the products developed through local R&D.

f. Linear Set-up boxes should be brought under Production Linked Incentives (PLI) scheme.

g. Periodically review the availability of indigenous components required for broadcasting equipment including chipsets.

h. Promote local manufacturing of other relevant components of the television broadcasting sector along the lines of Semicon India Program.

i. Define the scope of 'local manufacturing' for different equipment categories in the television broadcasting sector in terms of the percentage of the locally sourced components/ services.

J. Review Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and such agreements with regard to their impact on local manufacturing in the television broadcasting sector.

https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_31032023.pdf

Directions

TRAI issued Directions on 28th March 2023 to all Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to report major network outages to TRAI

The Authority has observed that incidences of major network outage of telecom networks occurring due to technical reasons or due to natural calamities are not reported by the Telecom Service Providers to TRAI. These major network outages in the country for that last for a prolonged duration, especially in border and hilly areas, adversely affect the availability or quality of service in the affected areas.

To understand the root cause of major network outages and get relevant support from local authorities extended to the service providers, the Authority has

decided to collect the information about any such outage at district level, if needed.

In view of the above, the Access Service Providers have been directed to report the following:

(a) all incidences of major network outages affecting the telecom services to the entire consumers of a district (revenue district as defined by the Union/State Government) continuously for a period of more than four hours, within twenty-four hours of their occurrence, in the format specified in the direction.

(b) the root cause of such major network outage and corrective actions taken thereof, within seventy-two hours of restoration of services, in the format specified in the direction.

https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Direction_28032023.pdf

Celebrated International Women's Day 2023 at TRAI Headquarters on 7th March 2023

A bilateral meeting between Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman-TRAI and Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas, Deputy Secretary General - ITU at the World Summit on International Society (WSIS) 2023 at Geneva, Switzerland on 14th March 2023

A bilateral meeting between Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman-TRAI and Dr. Cosmas Lucky son Zavazava, Director-Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU at the World Summit on International Society (WSIS) 23 at Geneva, Switzerland on 14th March 2023

Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman TRAI shared his views on "Digital Economy and Trade Financing for ICT" in High Level Policy Session of World Summit on International Society (WSIS) 2023 held in Geneva, Switzerland during 13-16 March 2023

Bilateral meeting was held on 16th March 2023 between Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman TRAI and Mr. Dick Ng Sui Wa, Chairman, Information and Communication Technology Authority (ICTA) Mauritius at the sidelines of WSIS-23 Conference at Geneva, Switzerland
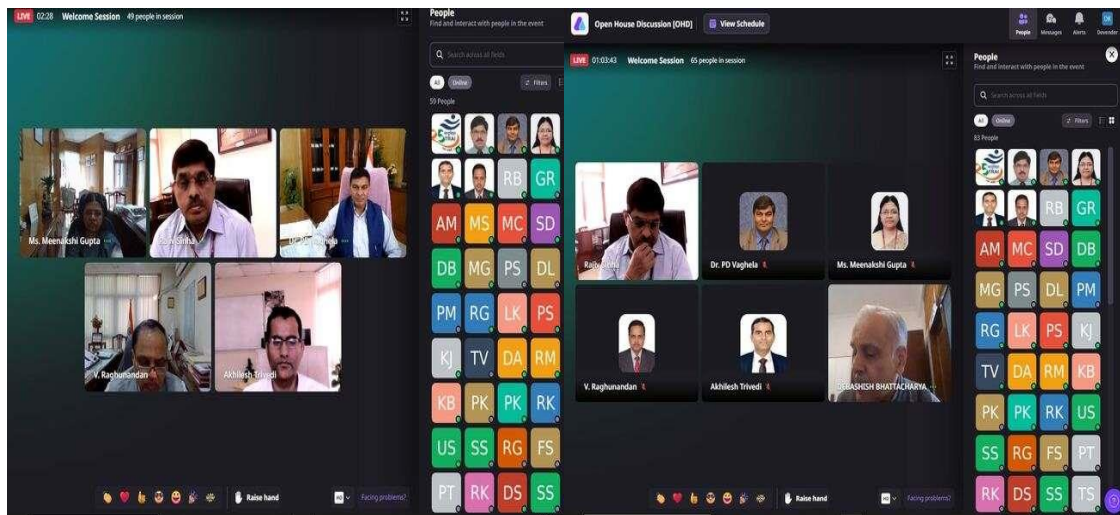
Bilateral meeting between Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman-TRAI and Mr. Giacomo Lasorella, President of Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni (AGCOM) -Rome on 17th March 2023

Open House Discussion

Open House Discussion was held on 9th March 2023 on the Consultation Paper on "Introduction of Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) in Telecommunication Networks".

Open House Discussion was held on 10th March 2023 on the Consultation Paper on "Data Communication Services Between Aircraft and Ground Stations Provided by Organizations other than Airport Authority of India"

Workshop/Seminars

TRAI conducted Workshops on Capacity Building of Consumer Advocacy Group in different cities as under:

S. No.	Place	Date
1	Deoghar, Jharkhand	17th March 23
2	Goa	29th March 23

Workshop at Deoghar, Jharkhand on 17th March 2023

Workshop at Goa on 29th March 2023

TRAI conducted Seminars in various cities as under:

S. No.	Topic	By Regional office	Date
1	Impact of Community Radio on Sustainable Development	Jaipur	29th March 23
2	Introduction to 5G Mobile Technology, Design, Development and Implementation Challenges and Use Cases	Hyderabad	31st March 23

Seminar on "Impact of Community Radio on Sustainable Development on 29th March 2023

Seminar on "Introduction to 5G Mobile Technology, Design, Development and Implementation Challenges and Use Cases" on 31st March 2023

Telecom Subscriptions

1. **Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st January 2023:**

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	627.13	25.59	652.72
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	515.89	2.14	518.03
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	**1143.02**	**27.73**	**1170.75**
Overall Tele-density (%)	82.52	2.00	84.52
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.87	92.29	55.75
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.13	7.71	44.25
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Millions)	806.07	33.11	839.18

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in January 2023 were 1024.81 million.

In January 2023, 12.40 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of January 2023, a total of 796.84 million consumers have availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

Miscellaneous

TRAI released the updated list of panel of Auditors to carry out the audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) on 2nd March 2023, vide which one audit firm namely 'M/s Mukesh Sushil & Co.' has been removed from the list of auditors. As on 31st March 2023, the total number of auditors empanelled by TRAI to carry out the audit of Digital Addressable Systems of DPOs was 52.

Consumer Outreach Programmes

TRAI conducted Special and Consumer Outreach Programmes (CoP) for different sections of the society in cities as under:

S. No.	Place	Date
1	Amritsar (Punjab)	3rd March 2023
2	Gangtok (Sikkim)	14th March 2023
3	Gariaband (Chhattisgarh)	14th March 2023
4	Goa	14th March 2023
5	Seoni (Madhya Pradesh)	15th March 2023
6	Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu)	15th March 2023
7	Solan (Himachal Pradesh)	24th March 2023
8	Tumkur (Karnataka)	27th March 2023
9	Dimapur (Nagaland)	28th March 2023

PHOTO GALLERY

Consumer Outreach Program at Amritsar (Punjab) held on 3rd March 2023 by Regional Office, Jaipur

Special Consumer Outreach Program at Gangtok (Sikkim) held on 14th March 2023 by Regional Office, Kolkata

Consumer Outreach Program at Gariaband (Chhattisgarh) held on 14th March 2023 by Regional Office, Bhopal

Consumer Outreach Program at Seoni (Madhya Pradesh) held on 15th March 2023 by Regional Office, Bhopal

Consumer Outreach Program at Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu) held on 15th March 2023 by Regional Office, Hyderabad

Consumer Outreach Program at Solan (Himachal Pradesh) held on 24th March 2023 by Regional Office, Delhi

Consumer Outreach Program at Tumkur (Karnataka) held on 27th March 2023 by Regional Office, Bengaluru

Consumer Outreach Program at Dimapur (Nagaland) held on 28th March 2023 by Regional Office, Kolkata

Full details of the Directions/Orders/Consultation Paper/Report, Subscription Data, etc mentioned in this newsletter are available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, (Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.
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