# TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

## E-NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST 2022



**Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI meeting with Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director ITU-D at TRAI office on 3rd August 2022**

# Recommendation

**TRAI's Response dated 25th July 2022 on DoT back-reference dated 28th June 2022 on Recommendations on 'Roadmap to Promote Broadband Connectivity and Enhanced Broadband Speed'**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 31.08.2021 sent its recommendations to the DoT on the "Roadmap for Promotion of Broadband Connectivity and Enhanced Broadband Speed".

A back-reference on the said recommendations was received on 28.06.2022 in which DoT conveyed prima facie views of the Government and some of the recommendations have been sent back to the Authority for reconsideration.

In this context, the Authority after due deliberation has reiterated/provided its reconsidered view to DoT on 25.07.2022.
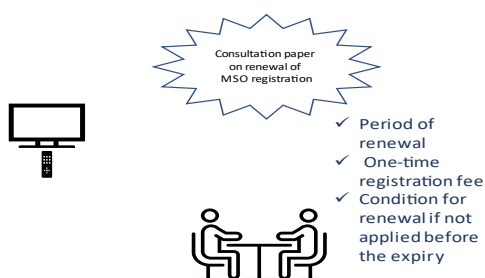
https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/TRAI_Response_25072022.pdf +

# Consultation Papers

**Consultation Paper on "Renewal of Multi-System Operators (MSOs) on 20th July 2022**



Digitalization of the Indian broadcasting sector began in year 2012 and was completed across the country by March 2017. Ministry of Information &

Broadcasting (MIB) issued the first registrations to Multi System Operators (MSOs) during the DAS implementation in June 2012, which became due for renewal/extension in June 2022. The Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, however, do not mention provisions for the renewal of MSO registrations. In view of this, the Authority has received a reference from MIB seeking recommendations on the issues pertaining to the MSO renewal procedure.

Accordingly, TRAI released a Consultation Paper on "Renewal of Multi-System Operators (MSOs) on 20th July 2022. The Consultation paper aims to seek comments of the stakeholders on relevant issues pertaining to the renewal of MSO registration including the fee to be paid for such renewal.

https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_20072022_0.pdf

**Consultation Paper on "Issues related to Community Radio Stations" on 21st July 2022**



Community Radio Stations (CRS) serve a local and well-defined community focussing on the day-to-day concerns of its audience and satisfying their specific information and entertainment needs. The Government announced its policy for the grant of permission for setting up of CRS in December 2002 permitting well-established educational institutions, including IITs/IIMs to establish CRS. To allow greater participation by the civil society, the Government on 4th December 2006 announced a revised policy for CR. Further, it has been duly amended in 2017.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in its references dated 11.11.2021 and 17.01.2022 requested the Authority to provide its recommendations on the following issues:
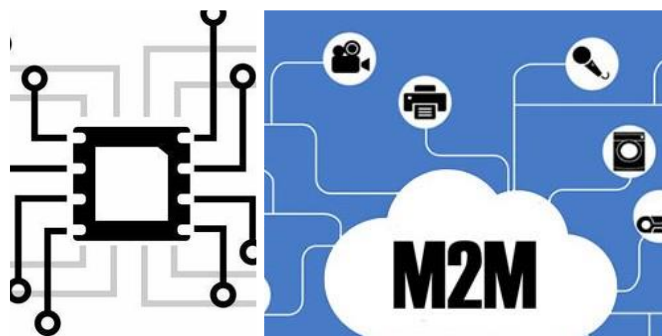
(i) Inclusion of not-for-profit companies, registered under Section 8 of Companies Act 2013, in the list of eligible organizations.

(ii) Increasing of permission 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.

Accordingly, the Consultation Paper has been issued to seek the comments/views of the stakeholders on the issues related to CRS. Written comments and counter comments on the consultation paper were invited from the stakeholders by 17th August 2022 and 31st August respectively.

https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_21072022.pdf

**TRAI released Consultation Paper on "Embedded SIMs for M2M Communications" on 25th July 2022**



Department of Telecommunication (DoT) through their letter dated 9th November 2021 sought TRAI's recommendations, under TRAI Act, 1997, for the holistic deployment of e-SIM in Indian Telecom network including implementation

mechanism under different profile – configurations and switch over of profiles by TSPs.

In this regard, a Consultation Paper on "Embedded SIM for M2M Communications" was released on 25th July 2022 seeking inputs from the stakeholders. In this consultation paper, issues pertaining to holistic deployment of EUICC (Embedded Universal Integrated Circuit Card) in Indian Telecom network including implementation mechanism under different profile configurations and switch over of profiles by TSPs have been raised, for consideration and comments of stakeholders.
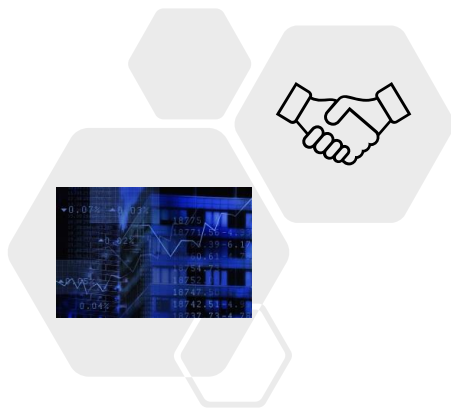
The Industry Association requested for extension of time for submission of written comments. Accordingly, it was decided to extend the last date for submission of written comments and counter comments up to 19th September 2022 and 3rd October 2022 respectively.

https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_25072022.pdf

## Consultation Paper on "Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees" on 26th July 2022

TRAI has released a Consultation Paper on "Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees" on 26th July 2022. Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has informed TRAI that as per the current Unified License/Unified License (Virtual Network Operators) regime, there is a provision of different Entry Fees and two separate bank guarantees i.e., Financial Bank Guarantee and Performance Bank Guarantee for each service authorization.

Entry fee
Bank guarantee

DoT requested TRAI to provide its recommendations whether, -

(i) Entry Fee should be reduced and made uniform across all authorizations, or

(ii) Both bank guarantees should be merged and the amount of a single Bank guarantee may be prescribed for each authorization.

In this regard, a Consultation Paper on "Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees", seeking inputs from the stakeholders has been placed and comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper were invited from the stakeholders by 23rd August 2022 and counter-comments by 6th September 2022.

https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_26072022_0.pdf

## Open House Discussion

### TRAI conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) through video conferencing on 5th July 2022

TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on "Promoting Networking and Telecom Equipment Manufacturing in India" on 5th July 2022. Opening remarks delivered by Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI in the online OHD and the paper was discussed with stakeholders regarding the requirement of amendments & extension to the current PLI scheme for making it more effective & also need of financial and fiscal incentives to promote Networking and Telecom Equipment manufacturing (NATEM) in India.

# Telecom Subscriptions

**Telecom Subscription Data as on 30th June 2022:**

| Particulars | Wireless | Wireline | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions) | 625.49 | 23.60 | 649.09 |
| Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions) | 521.90 | 1.97 | 523.87 |
| Total Telephone subscribers (Millions) | **1147.39** | **25.57** | **1172.96** |
| Overall Tele-density (%) | 83.20 | 1.83 | 85.03 |
| Share of Urban Subscription (%) | 54.51 | 92.30 | 55.34 |
| Share of Rural Subscription (%) | 45.49 | 7.70 | 44.66 |
| No. of Broadband Subscribers (Millions) | 772.23 | 28.71 | 800.94 |

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in June 2022 were 1017.56 million.

In June 2022, 9.02 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of June 2022, a total of 714.56 million consumers have availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

# Miscellaneous

**Panel of Auditors (Updated List) to carry out the Audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) dated 27th July 2022:**

TRAI releases an updated list of the panel of auditors to carry out digital addressable systems from time to time. In this context, TRAI released the updated list for panel of auditors on 27th July 2022.

**DRIVE TEST:**

TRAI on 20.07.2022 released a report on Drive tests conducted in twelve cities and surrounding areas viz~ Nellore, Salem, Visakhapatnam, Tumkur, Sangli, Rajkot, Udaipur, Kanpur, Indore, Dehradun, Meghalaya, and Gopalganj, and two highways Indore-Bhopal & Dehradun-Meerut. The test was conducted in the Quarter Ending March 2022.

The Drive tests were conducted to assess the network quality provided by cellular mobile telephone service providers for voice and data services.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were assessed for the networks of all telecom service providers operating in the region. KPIs for voice services are Coverage; Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR); Drop Call Rate; Block Call Rate, Handover Success Rate; Rx Quality. KPIs for data services are Download and Upload Throughputs, Web Browsing Delay, Video Streaming Delay and Latency.

**5G readiness tested under TRAI Pilots at Bhopal Smart City, Indira Gandhi International Airport New Delhi, Deendayal Port Kandla and Namma Metro Bengaluru for Small Cells deployed using street furniture:**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had initiated pilots at Bhopal Smart City, Indira Gandhi International Airport New Delhi, Deendayal Port Kandla and Namma Metro Bengaluru on use of street furniture for Small Cells and aerial fibre deployment. Major Telecom Service Providers and Infrastructure Providers like Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone-ldea and BSNL are participating in these Pilots at different locations. These pilots will be very helpful to make cross-sectoral infrastructure more accessible for quick roll-out of the 5G networks for Telcos, post allotment of 5G frequencies by DoT.

In Bhopal Smart City, the Project was carried out at 11 locations. With this radiation and testing of 5G small cells by Telecom Service Providers under the pilot project, the Smart City has become the first smart city in the country to test 5G readiness for use of street furniture like Traffic signal pole, Street light pole, Smart Pole, Billboard, Direction Board, Road Signage, Foot-over bridge and city Bus Shelter.

Similarly with deployment of 5G Small Cells over street furniture by Telecom service providers under TRAI pilot, Deendayal Port Kandla and Indira Gandhi International Airport New Delhi have become the first ports and airport, respectively in the country to test 5G readiness. At Namma Metro Bengaluru, MG Road Metro station was selected as main station to target 5G coverage at road level, in its Concourse area, platform and tracks on both sides. After radiation of 5G Outdoor Small Cells at the station, Namma Metro has become the first Metro rail system in India to test 5G readiness.
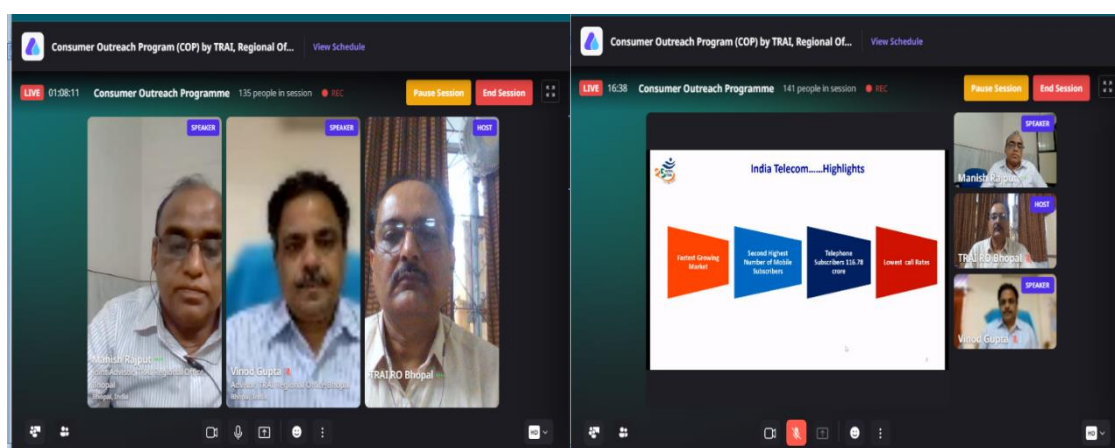
### Covid vaccination camps

TRAI with an aim to benefit all of its Officers/Officials organized two covid vaccination camps to increase the vaccination coverage amongst them through DIO, Central District, Government of NCT of Delhi on 1st July 2022 and 8th July 2022. Arrangements for the 1st/2nd or Booster/Precautionary dose(s) were made available in the camp(s) to help oneself and the nation in the containment of COVID-19.
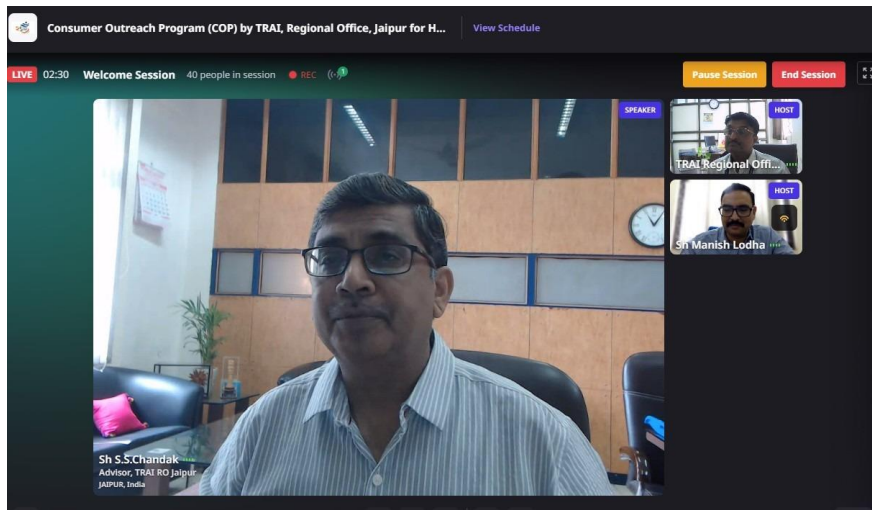
## Consumer Outreach Programmes

**The Consumer Outreach Programmes was organized in July 2022 through the online platform:**

| S. No. | Place | Date |
|--------|-------|------|
| 1 | Madhya Pradesh | 15th July 2022 |
| 2 | Haryana | 29th July 2022 |

## PHOTO GALLERY



**Consumer Outreach Program for Madhya Pradesh held on 15th July 2022 by Regional Office, Bhopal**

**Consumer Outreach Program for Haryana held on 29th July 2022 by Regional Office, Jaipur**

*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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*We are also on Twitter! follow us!* *TRAI@TRAI*