

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2023



Dr. P D Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI addressed to TRAI Parivar on the occasion New Year Celebration 2023

Y E A R S
ANNIVERSARY

Recommendations

Recommendations on “Improving Telecom Connectivity/ Infrastructure in far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh”-Issued on 12th December 2022

Considering the poor telecom connectivity situation in some parts of hilly state of Himachal Pradesh and the need for addressing the digital divide in the state, the Authority had suo-motu initiated consultation with relevant stakeholders viz Department of Information Technology (DIT) of the Govt. of HP, Local State Government Officials, Telecom Service Providers, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) and local consumer representatives.

With the consultation/views of stakeholders and its own analysis, TRAI has issued recommendations on Improving Telecom Connectivity/ Infrastructure in remote and far-flung districts of Himachal Pradesh on 12th December 2022.

The salient points of these recommendations are as follows:

- ✓ Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) and Operating Expenditure (OPEX) required for providing telecom infrastructure and connectivity to the 25 uncovered villages (falling under the three revenue districts of Lahaul & Spiti, Kullu and Chamba) of Himachal Pradesh (HP) should be funded by Government through USOF.
- ✓ Cellular mobile infrastructure at 38 villages having non-4G based coverage, has also been recommended to be upgraded to 4G based telecom service under the 20% additional scope that exists in Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) sponsored “Saturation Of 4G Mobile Services in Uncovered Villages Across the Country.
- ✓ It has been recommended that for 4G saturation scheme, USOF should initially plan VSAT based backhaul connectivity for all such villages where OFC or other backhaul media is not currently available. The VSAT equipment can be taken on monthly rental model or other prevailing models including shared bandwidth model. The VSAT connectivity can be surrendered as soon as the OFC backhaul is made available.
- ✓ DoT should take it up with Ministry of Defence (MoD), for allocation of one/ two pair of OFC on Network For Spectrum (NFS) network for extending telecom coverage (including broadband services) to the villages located in far-flung or border areas in the state under BharatNet project.
- ✓ For revenue districts of Himachal Pradesh viz. Chamba, Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti and Mandi, the villages that are yet to be connected under Bharat Net Project should be immediately connected on VSAT media.

- ✓ DOT should take up with the State Government to consider providing electricity to telecom sites on priority at Utility/Industrial tariff.
- ✓ DoT should also take up with the State Government of HP to consider waiving off last mile installation charges for extending electric connection to telecom sites in remote and hilly areas to facilitate early roll out of telecom services in these areas and to bridge digital divide.
- ✓ DOT should pursue it with State Government, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Border Roads Organization (BRO), that in all road construction, road widening or other related works prior coordination with TSPs should be done (through prior notice) and liability of Contractor for making payments for damages to telecom networks should be in-build in the contracts.
- ✓ The Authority recommends that DoT should take it up with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Himachal Pradesh Government for coming up with a scheme to fund installation of solar panels at important strategic telecom sites in remote hilly areas.

https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_12122022_0.pdf



TRAI releases Recommendations on “Spectrum Requirements of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) for Train Control System for Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridors” on 28th December 2022

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) through their letter dated 29.11.2021 had sought TRAI to furnish Recommendations on administrative assignment of spectrum to NCRTC and the quantum, pricing/ charging thereof and other terms and conditions.

In this regard, a Consultation Paper on ‘Spectrum Requirements of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) for Train Control System for RRTS Corridors’ was issued on 09.06.2022. An Open House Discussion (OHD) was held on 25.08.2022 through virtual mode.

Based on the comments received from the stakeholders and its own analysis, TRAI finalized its Recommendations on ‘Spectrum Requirements of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) for Train Control System for RRTS Corridors’.

The salient features of these Recommendations are as follows:

- a. 5 MHz (paired) spectrum in 700 MHz band be assigned to NCRTC for use in RRTS corridors along the railway tracks.
- b. The frequency spectrum assigned to NCRTC may also be assigned to other RRTS/ Metro rail networks, which are geographically separated and not likely to cause any interference to one another.

- d. To ascertain feasibility of RAN sharing, a field trial of RAN sharing through multi-operator core network (MOCN) may be conducted by the Ministry of Railways involving IR and National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), under the supervision of DoT.
- e. A separate category of Permission/ License for Captive Non-Public Network for Railway Networks (CNPN-R) may be created. However, the permission/ licensing regime for CNPN-R may be kept very simple and light touch.
- f. Spectrum charging mechanism and payment terms: -
 - i. The Auction Determined Price for 10 years allocation should be equal to 0.5 times (half times) the Auction Determined Price discovered in the latest 2022 Auction for 700 MHz spectrum band for the respective LSA
 - ii. The Auction Determined Price of the respective LSAs through which the RRTS/metro rail network passes should be used as a benchmark, adjusted for the corridor area relative to the total geographical area of a particular LSA on a pro-rata basis.



https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_28122022.pdf

TRAI has issued Recommendations on ‘Renewal of Multi-System Operators (MSOs) Registration on 29th December 2022

TRAI on 29th December 2022 has released recommendations on “Renewal of Multi-System Operators Registration”. TRAI received a reference from MIB on the issues pertaining to the MSO renewal procedure. In this regard, TRAI issued a consultation paper on ‘Renewal of Multi-System Operators Registration’ on 20th July 2022 for seeking comments from the stakeholders. TRAI received comments from 10 stakeholders and the Open House Discussion on the same held on 19th October 2022 through online mode. After considering all the comments and further analysis of the issue, the Authority has finalized its recommendations. The salient features of the recommendations include:

- a. The renewal of MSO registration should be done for a period of 10 years
- b. The Authority recommends that at the time of renewal, the processing fee should be kept at Rs. 1 lakh.



https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_29122022.pdf

Consultation Papers

TRAI releases Consultation Paper on “Data Communication Services Between Aircraft and Ground Stations Provided by Organizations Other Than Airports Authority of India” on 10th Dec. 2022

Department of Telecommunication (DoT), through its letter dated 12th April 2022, has inter-alia stated that Very High Frequency (VHF) data link services consist of the data for the tracking the aircraft for safety of flights. The Ministry of Communications has made frequency assignments to M/s Societe Internationale de Telecommunications Aeronautique and M/s Bird Consultancy Services to operate VHF Data Communication Link between aircrafts and ground stations. Considering that VHF Data Link Services to provide Aircraft Communication Addressing and Reporting service can be beneficial to track aircrafts on a real-time basis and help investigations/ search and rescue operations in the unfortunate event of aviation disaster, DoT has requested TRAI to provide recommendations on the following:

- An appropriate mechanism to regulate the services provided by these organizations.
- The manner in which the frequency assignment should be made to these organizations, in light of the supreme Court judgment made in the 2G case in 2012 - radio frequencies to assign only through auction.

In this regard, a Consultation Paper on "Data Communication Services Between Aircraft and Ground Stations Provided by Organizations Other Than Airports Authority of India" was released on 10.12.2022 seeking inputs from stakeholders have been placed on TRAI's website (www.traai.gov.in). Written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper are invited from stakeholders by 09.01.2023 and counter comments by 23.01.2023.



https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Consultation_10122022.pdf

Consultation Paper on ‘Licensing Framework and Regulatory Mechanism for Submarine Cable Landing in India’-Issued on 23rd December 2022.

DoT vide its dated 12th August 2022 sought recommendations of the TRAI on licensing framework and regulatory mechanism for submarine cable landing in India within existing UL-ILD/Standalone ILD License.

Submarine cables are vital communication infrastructure of the digital age and critical to the today's fast-paced data driven economy. The global extensive network of submarine communication cables traverses the maritime zones of several countries connecting people and businesses across the globe. According to data received from owners of Cable Landing Station, India has around seventeen submarine cables terminating at fourteen distinct cable landing

stations. In addition, a number of new submarine cables are in pipeline for rollout, which will make landfall at different coastal cities of India.

DoT in its reference letter has expressed its concern over some Indian International Long Distance Operators (ILDOS) for not having any stake in submarine cable system yet seeking clearance on behalf of the owners of submarine cable for laying/ maintaining such cables in Indian Territorial water/ Exclusive Economics Zones and also for applying to set up of Cable Landing Station (CLS) for such submarine cables. TRAI has thus issued this Consultation Paper (CP) to seek views of stakeholders on the issues flagged in the reference received from DoT.

In this regard, written comments on the Consultation Paper are invited from the stakeholders by 20th January 2023.



https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_23122022.pdf

Regulations

Tariff for SMS and Cell Broadcast alerts disseminated through Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) platform during disasters/non-disasters-Telecommunication Tariff (69th Amendment) Order, 2022 on 06th December 2022

Department of Telecom (DoT) has requested TRAI to provide tariff for SMS and Cell Broadcast alerts/messages to be disseminated by TSPs through CAP platform during disasters/non-disasters.

DOT allows SMS/Cell Broadcast free of cost only for a definite period and for events where specific request for free of cost messages comes from NEC/NCMC/SEC/Nodal Authorities. However, there are occasions when the Government would like to send alert messages to the public forewarning of a possible disaster or occasions where public has to be informed of special events such as holding of relief/vaccine/medical camps/specific law and order related situations etc.

Accordingly, as per extant practice, TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on the subject and after considering the views of all stakeholders/ participants and analysis thereof, the Authority decided that no charges shall be levied for such SMS/Cell Broadcast - Alerts/messages sent either during disaster or prior to notification of disaster or after the expiry of disaster.

Further Authority prescribed Tariff of Rs.0.02 (paise two only) for SMS Alerts/ messages, other than those sent as per directions issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005



https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Regulation_06122022.pdf

Seminar

Seminar on “Telecom Infrastructure” at Hyderabad” on 15th December 2022 by Regional Office, Hyderabad



TRAI organized a seminar on the topic “Telecom Infrastructure” as a part of Silver Jubilee Celebrations of TRAI and Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (75 years of India’s independence) on 15th December 2022 through its regional office, Hyderabad.

Shri. V Raghunandan, Secretary, TRAI had explained about the status of telecom sector in the country and role of TRAI in promoting the Telecom growth in India. He had also explained in detail about the need for collaborative regulation with electricity regulators, financial regulation like SEBI, RBI etc.

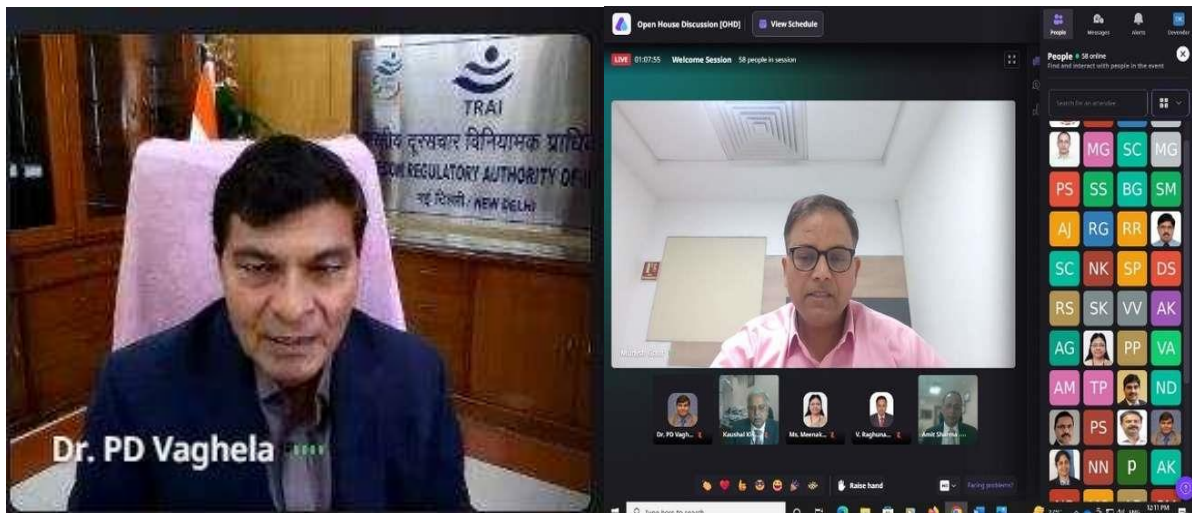
Seminar on 'Telecommunications Infrastructure and Economic Growth - A Simultaneous Approach' by Regional Office, Bhopal on 16th December 2022



“Rapid digitalization is a reality and the pace is going to increase, today is 5G, and next may be 6G. Digitalization impacts everyone and the physical Economy gets converted to the digital economy.” Dr. P D. Vaghela, Chairman,TRAI

Open House Discussion

Opening remarks by Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI in the online OHD on Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees on 9th December 22



Opening remarks by Dr. P.D.Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI in the online OHD on consultation paper on “Embedded SIM for M2M Communications” on 14th December 22



Events

Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI, addressed the meeting of Appellate Authorities of all TSPs of Gujarat LSA at Ahmedabad on 3rd December 2022



Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI in Inaugural Session of "An All Day knowledge workshop on the Metaverse" organised jointly by TRAI and FICCI at New Delhi " on 5th December 2022



Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General-Asia Pacific Telecommunity visited TRAI and held discussions with Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman-TRAI in the presence of Sh. V. Raghunandan, Secretary, TRAI. On 6th December 2022



TRAI organized a workshop on "Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace" for creating awareness and sensitization of the employees of TRAI under SH Act. Ms. Vimla Mehra (Retd.) IPS Officer addressed the gathering on the occasion on 6th December 2022



Telecom Subscriptions

Telecom Subscription Data as on 30th November 2022:

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	626.60	25.08	651.68
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	516.45	2.05	518.50
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	1143.04	27.13	1170.18
Overall Tele-density (%)	82.64	1.96	84.61
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.82	92.44	55.69
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.18	7.56	44.31
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Millions)	793.55	31.83	825.38

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in November 2022 were 1012.33 million.

In November 2022, 12.02 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of November 2022, a total of 771.94 million consumers have availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

Consumer Outreach Programmes

On the occasion of its Silver Jubilee, TRAI initiated special Consumer Outreach Programmes (CoP) for different sections of the society as under:

S. No.	Place	Date
1	Moinabad (Hyderabad)	06 th December 2022
2	Kutch (Gujarat)	12 th December 2022
3	Kalamassery (Kerala)	13 th December 2022
4	Bengaluru (Karnataka)	19 th December 2022
5	Lalitpur (Uttar Pradesh)	21 st December 2022
6	Gaya (Bihar)	22 nd December 2022

PHOTO GALLERY



Consumer Outreach Program for students at KG Reddy College of Engineering Moinabad (Hyderabad) held on 06th December 2022 by Regional Office, Hyderabad



Special Consumer Outreach Program for women members of Kutch Craft Association at Nakhatrana, Gujarat held on 12th December 2022 by Regional Office, Jaipur



Consumer Outreach Program at Kalamassery (Kerala) held on 13th December 2022 by Regional Office, Bengaluru



Special Consumer Outreach Program for 'Persons with Disability' at Bengaluru (Karnataka) held on 19th December 2022 by Regional Office, Bengaluru



Consumer Outreach Programme at Gaya, Bihar on 22nd December 2022 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

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