



TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-NEWSLETTER FOR TRAI REGISTERED CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS FOR NOVEMBER, 2018



Dr. R S Sharma Chairman TRAI delivering lecture on 'Aadhar : India's Digital ID Infrastructure' on occasion of Celebrating 30 years of excellence in Professional Education and Research with Empathy for All at Jamia Hamdard at New Delhi

1. Recommendations/Directions

1.1 TRAI issues Direction on provision of Interconnection dated 18.10.2018

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had earlier issued Direction No.409-9/2005-FN dated 7th June, 2005 and its corrigendum No.409-9/2005-FN dated 28th July, 2005, in order to ensure compliance of terms and conditions of license and effective interconnection between service providers and to protect consumer interest. Through this Direction, TRAI directed all service providers to provide interconnection on the request of the interconnection seeker within 90 days of the applicable payments made by the interconnection seeker.

2. Thereafter, with the issue of “The Telecommunication Interconnection Regulation, 2018” dated 01.01.2018 and “The Telecommunication Interconnection (Amendment) Regulations, 2018” dated 05.07.2018, the framework for provisioning of ports has been revised from 90 days of the applicable payment made by the interconnection seeker to 42 working days, upon receipt of the request of ports from interconnection seekers, to ensure provisioning of ports for initial interconnection and augmentation of ports at POIs.

3. In view of issue of TRAI’s regulations mentioned at para 2 above, the Authority has issued Direction No.6-6/2017-BB&PA dated 18.10.2018, through which it has withdrawn its earlier Direction dated 07.06.2005.

2. Consultation Paper

2.1 Consultation Paper on “Methodology for levy of Spectrum Charges for provision of Satellite based Services using Gateway installed in India under ‘sui-generis’ category”:

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), through its letter dated 13th August 2018, informed that based on the TRAI recommendations dated 12th May 2014 on ‘Provisioning of INMARSAT/Satellite Phone Services’, M/s BSNL has been granted a service license dated 25th August 2014 for ‘Provision and Operation of Satellite based services using gateway installed in India’ under “Sui-generis” category by DoT. Presently, the annual spectrum charges for the Gateway and user terminals are levied on formula basis (proportional to the number of terminals and frequency bandwidth used). M/s BSNL has been requesting to change the present methodology of spectrum charging from formula based to Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) based for provision of this service in line with the commercial VSAT service. Therefore, DoT requested

TRAI to provide its recommendations on the method of levy of annual spectrum charges.

In view of the above, a Consultation Paper on “Methodology for levy of Spectrum Charges for provision of Satellite based Services using Gateway installed in India under ‘sui-generis’ category” was released on 10th October 2018 to discuss the issues involved and possible solutions. Comments received from the stakeholders have been uploaded in the TRAI official website. An Open House Discussion (OHD) on the issue is scheduled to be held on 26th November 2018.

2.2 Consultation paper issued on 18.10.2018 on “Estimation of Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges at Cable Landing Stations”

TRAI has issued the Consultation Paper on “Estimation of Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges at Cable Landing Stations”.

2. Access Facilitation charges (AFC) are the charges, which are payable by International Long Distance Operators (ILDO) / Internet Service Providers (ISP) to the owner of the cable landing station to access the acquired international bandwidth in a submarine cable. Submarine cables provide vital international telecommunication links between countries across the world. Submarine cables terminate in the country through cable landing stations.

3. TRAI had issued The International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges and Co-Location Charges Regulations, 2012 on 21.12.2012. The AFC charges and co-location Charges specified in the regulations dated 21.12.2012 were to be effective from 01.01.2013. However, it was challenged in the Hon’ble Madras High court by two of the Owners of Cable Landing Station (OCLS). The Single Judge Bench of the Hon’ble Madras High Court on 11.12.2016 had dismissed the writ petitions. But appeal was filed by these two OCLS owners before a Division Bench of the Hon’ble Madras High Court. The Hon’ble Division Bench of Madras High Court vide its final Judgment and order dated 02.07.2018 had quashed the Schedules I, II and III of ‘The International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges Regulations, 2012’ dated 21.12.2012 and has directed that TRAI shall redo and re-enact the aforesaid schedules.

4. Subsequently, TRAI has filed Special Leave Petition in the Hon’ble Supreme Court against the judgment of the Division Bench of Hon’ble Madras High Court. Similar, Special Leave Petitions were also filed by other stakeholders in the Hon’ble Supreme court. The Hon’ble Supreme court vide its order dated 08.10.2018 has requested the Authority to re-work the figures on both counts within a period of six week. The both counts are ‘Utilization factor’

and 'Conversion factor' which were used for estimation of the Access Facilitation Charges.

5. In view of the above, consultation Paper was released to re-work the figures of 'Utilization factor' and 'Conversion factor' used to estimate the Access Facilitation and Co-location charges in compliance to the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 08.10.2018.

3. Other Information

3.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31.08.2018.

Particulars	No. of Wireless subscribers (in Millions)	No. of Wire-line Subscribers (in Millions)	No. of Total subscribers (Wireless + Wire-line) (in Millions)
Urban Telephone subscribers	647.80	19.00	666.80
Rural Telephone subscribers	519.10	3.19	522.29
Total Telephone subscribers	1166.90	22.19	1189.08
Overall Tele-density	89.41	1.70	91.11
Share of Urban Subscription	55.51%	85.63%	56.08%
Share of Rural Subscription	44.49%	14.37%	43.92%
No. of Broadband Subscribers	445.64	18.02	463.66

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in August, 2018 were 1013.21 million.

In the month of August, 2018, 4.73 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. Till the end of August, 18, a total of 395.72 million consumers have availed MNP facility since its implementation.

3.2 Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report

TRAI released the "Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report" for the quarter ending 30th June 2018 on 3.10.2018. This Report provides a broad perspective of the Telecom Services in India and presents the key parameters and growth trends of the Telecom Services as well as Cable TV, DTH & Radio Broadcasting services in India for the period covering 1st April, 2018 to 30th June 2018 compiled mainly on the basis of information furnished by the Service Providers. The report is available on TRAI's

website and can be accessed under the link:
<http://www.trai.gov.in/release-publication/reports/performance-indicators-reports>.

3.3 Conducting of Independent Drive Tests (IDTs) :

TRAI has been regularly conducting the Independent Drive Tests (IDTs) through its appointed agency in cities, Highways and rail routes. Independent Drive Tests (IDTs) in six cities, were conducted during 17th July 2018 to 1st August 2018, to assess the network quality provided by cellular mobile telephone service providers. The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were assessed for the networks of all telecom service providers operating in the region. KPIs for voice services were Coverage; Call Setup Success Rate; Drop Call Rate; Block Call Rate, Handover Success Rate; Rx Quality.

The details of IDTs are given below.-

Cities:-

- Jabalpur from 17th to 19th July, 2018
- Ajmer from 18th to 20th July 2018
- Dewas from 24th to 26th July 2018
- Agartala from 24th to 26th July 2018
- Ranchi from 24th to 27th July 2018
- Bokaro from 30th July to 1st August 2018

Detailed reports of IDTs in the above Cities are available on TRAI website namely www.trai.gov.in.

4. Consumer Outreach Programmes

The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised during the month of October, 2018

1	Udaipur (Tripura)	04.10.2018
2	Faridkot (Punjab)	16.10.2018
3	Kochi (Kerala)	26.10.2018
4	Pratapgarh (Uttar Pradesh)	29.10.2018
5	Vyara, Distt. Tapi (Gujarat)	30.10.2018

PHOTO GALLERY



CoP at Udaipur (Tripura) held on 04.10.2018



CoP at Faridkot (Punjab) held on 16.10.2018



CoP at Kochi (Kerala) held on 26.10.2018



CoP at Pratapgarh (Uttar Pradesh) held on 29.10.2018



CoP at Vyara, Distt. Tapi (Gujarat) held on 30.10.2018

Full details of the Directions/Orders, Consultation Paper/Report, Subscription Data, etc mentioned in this newsletter are available on TRAI website www.traigov.in

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