

# TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



## E-NEWSLETTER



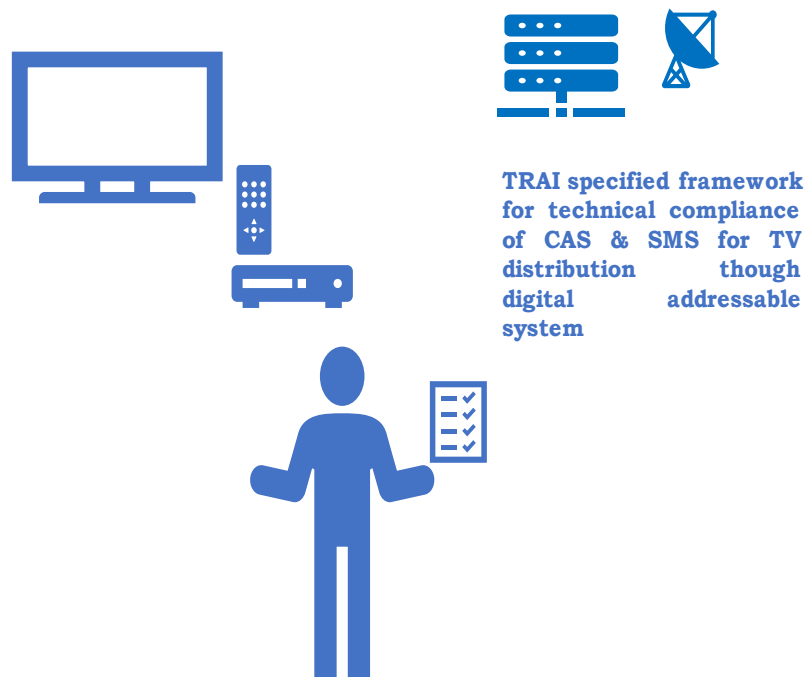
**JULY 2021**



***A bi-lateral agreement in the form of Letter of Intent was signed between Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI, and Mr. Dick Christophe NG SUI WA, Chairperson, Information & Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA), Mauritius, in a virtual meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021.***

# 1. Regulations

## 1.1 TRAI issued the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2021



The Digital Addressable System enabled addressability, transparency, high channel carrying capacity to consumers. The Conditional Access System (CAS) and Subscriber Management system (SMS) are the core elements in the Digital Addressable system. However, deployment of non-standard CAS and SMS may render the TV distribution vulnerable to hacking and content piracy. In some cases, it is noted that the distributors were unable to comply with the new regulatory framework. Some distributors raised support related issues also with such non-standard systems.

For addressing this issue, TRAI felt the need to prescribe minimum benchmarks/criteria for CAS and SMS. In this regard, TRAI, after due consultation, issued the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2021, on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021, which provides a framework for technical compliance of CAS and SMS. The said framework is incorporated as Schedule IX in the Interconnection Regulations, 2017.

The operationalization and oversight of the framework shall be carried out through a Testing and Certification Agency, which will be prescribed by the Authority subsequently.

The framework is expected to bring several important benefits to the television broadcasting sector as well as the consumers. Some highlights are as under:

- i) The framework is the first step to define an indigenous set of specifications in the line of international standards.
- ii) A tightly synchronized working of CAS and SMS, as specified by the framework, will enable factual reporting of subscriber base, etc. This will reduce the revenue loss to stakeholders on account of erroneous subscription reporting. Better assurance of due revenue, in turn, may encourage the stakeholders to invest for further improvement in the quality of content and service; thereby benefiting the end consumer.
- iii) The framework will usher-in better content security in the distribution value chain. This, in turn, shall give confidence to the global content developer community and will pave the way for increased availability of better quality, high-definition content to Indian television viewers.
- iv) The framework will improve end-to-end compliance and reduce litigations among the service providers

[https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Regulation\\_11062021.pdf](https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Regulation_11062021.pdf)



## 2. Open House Discussion

### 2.1 TRAI conducted OHD on Consultation paper on ‘Licensing Framework for Satellite based connectivity for low bit rate applications’

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) through Video Conferencing, on the Consultation Paper on "Licensing Framework for Satellite based connectivity for low bit rate applications" on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021".



### 2.2 TRAI conducted OHD on the Supplementary Consultation paper on “Roadmap to Promote Broadband Connectivity and Enhanced Broadband Speed”

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) through Video Conferencing, on the Consultation Paper on “Roadmap to Promote Broadband Connectivity and Enhanced Broadband Speed” on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021".

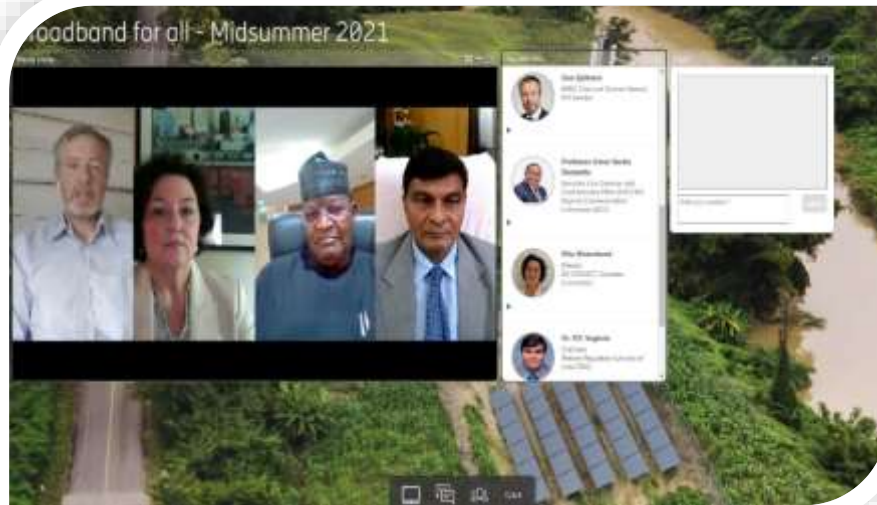


### 3. New Secretary Has Joined

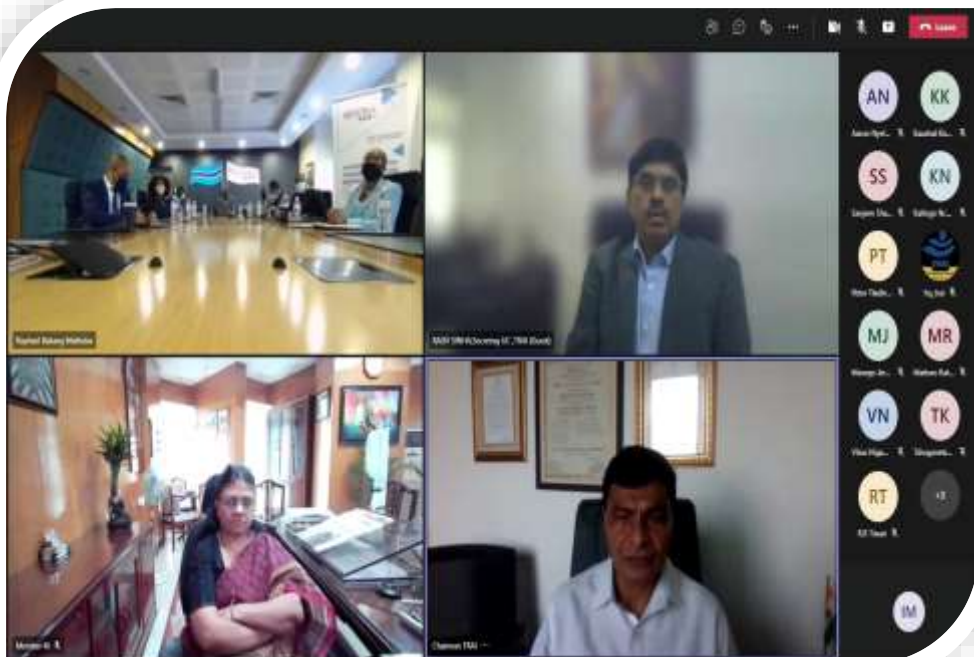


**Shri V Raghunandan, ITS Deputy Director General (IR), DoT, joined as Secretary, TRAI, on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

## 4. Important Events



**Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI, participated as a panellist in the virtual event on "Broadband for All" organized by PTS, Sweden, on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**



**A Letter of Intent has been signed between the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) & Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA).**

**Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI, and H.E. Tsaone Ruth Thebe, Board Chair, BOCRA, signed the agreement virtually on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.**

## Launch of Channel Selector Portal



Transparency and consumer protection are important mandate of TRAI. The new regulations/orders of TRAI for the television and broadcasting sector gave freedom to consumers to select television channels 'they want to watch'.

After issuing the New Tariff order for broadcasting services it was noticed that consumers were facing difficulty to opt for TV channels/bouquets of their choice on the web portal /Apps of their respective Distributed Platform Operators (DPOs).

For the convenience of the customers, TRAI came up with a mobile App and it was launched last year. Now, TRAI launched a web portal also on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Both the App and the portal provide reliable, robust, and transparent systems to television subscribers for fetching the data from respective DPOs platform through APIs. The prominent feature of both the App and the Portal is optimisation of the subscription before it is sent to DTH/Cable operator, so that subscribers can get best value for money. The subscribers will be authenticated by OTP on their Registered Mobile Number (RMN). In case there is no registered mobile number of a subscriber with DPO, the subscriber will get OTP on his/her TV screen.

The portal has all the existing features of an App, along with download facility and help subscribers to:

- a) Check their own subscription
- b) View all channels and Bouquets provided by their DTH/Cable Operator
- c) Choose only the channel of interest and remove unwanted channels
- d) Get optimized solution
- e) Facility to add channels in the applicable NCF
- f) Allow users to modify existing subscription
- g) Check real-time status of your subscription request
- h) Download and print current subscription, offerings and set subscription request

The Channel Selector Web Portal is accessible on link: <https://channelselector.trai.gov.in>. For accessing through mobile phone, Channel Selector App is accessible on both Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

## 5. Telecom Subscriptions

### 3.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	641.48	19.70	661.18
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	535.36	1.96	537.32
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	<b>1176.84</b>	<b>21.66</b>	<b>1198.50</b>
Overall Tele-density (%)	86.25	1.59	87.84
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.51	90.93	55.17
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.49	9.07	44.83
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	757.53	22.74	780.27

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in May 2021 were 986.11 million.

In May 2021, 7.28 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of May 2021, a total of 593.61 million consumers have availed the MNP facility since its implementation.



## 6. Other Information



### 4.1 On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay had pronounced judgment in W.P (L) No. 116 of 2020 titled as "The Film and Television Producers Guild of India Ltd. & Anr. Vs TRAI & Ors."

This judgment is a landmark for TRAI and the broadcasting and cable sector, as Hon'ble Bombay High Court has upheld the powers of TRAI as detailed under.

- I) The Court upheld the power of the Authority to regulate the broadcasting sector, while dismissing the challenge to the constitutional validity of Section 11(2) of the TRAI Act.
- II) The Court upheld the constitutional validity of the 2020 regulatory framework with an exception that the second twin condition prescribed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> proviso to clause 3(3) of the second amendment to Tariff Order, 2020 shall be struck down as arbitrary.

The said condition prescribes the following:-

*“(b) the maximum retail price per month of any à la carte pay channel, forming part of such a bouquet, shall in no case exceed three times the average maximum retail price per month of a pay channel of that bouquet.”* The Court struck down this condition while upholding the validity of the rest of the provision

The first part of the twin condition has been upheld by the Court which states *“(a) the sum of maximum retail prices per month of the à la carte pay channels forming part of a bouquet shall in no case exceed one and half times of the maximum retail price per month of such bouquet;”*


III) Further, the Court extended its interim order dated 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020 by six weeks from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, and directed TRAI to not take any coercive action for the non-implementation of the 2020 regulatory framework till the said extended period of six weeks from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**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](http://www.trai.gov.in)**

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(Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.**

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