



SPECIAL EDITION

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



TRAI IS CELEBRATING 25 GLORIOUS YEARS OF FORMATION
ALONG WITH 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE -
AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2022



A bilateral meeting was held between TRAI delegation headed by Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman TRAI and BEREC (Board of European Regulators for Electronic Communications) delegation headed by BEREC Chair, Ms. Annemarie Sipkes at the GSMA Mobile World Congress 2022 at Barcelona-Spain on 28th February 2022

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ANNIVERSARY

Some glimpses of
the GSMA Mobile World Congress 2022



1. Consultation Papers

1.1 Consultation Paper on “Promoting Networking and Telecom Equipment Manufacturing in India” on 11th February 2022

Promoting Networking and Telecom Equipment Manufacturing



The rapidly growing number of data users and upcoming technologies like 5G, Internet of things, Machine to machine communications, etc. are likely to fuel the networking and telecom equipment (NATE) market growth. This provides tremendous opportunities for NATE manufacturers to grow into a potent global player. It becomes necessary for a country to have an agile manufacturing setup for networking and telecom equipment so that value addition to the economy can be maximized. As envisaged in the National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP-2018), India's contribution to global value chains can be maximized by focusing on domestic production, increasing exports, and reducing the import burden, and then several policy initiatives will be required to be taken.

TRAI issued a consultation paper on “Promoting Networking and Telecom Equipment Manufacturing in India” on 11th February 2022 to take a view of the stakeholders on existing concerns in Networking and Telecom Equipment Manufacturing. It intends to further examine measures that should be taken to meet the demands of the growing market both within the country and outside. It also intends to solicit views on measures required for transforming the telecommunication manufacturing landscape and establish the country as an export hub.

Written comments on the consultation paper were invited from the stakeholders by 11.03.2022 and Counter comments by 25.03.2022.



https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_11022022.pdf

2. New Regulatory Framework

2.1 TRAI released a letter for the extension of the time limit for implementation of the New Regulatory Framework 2020 on 3rd February 2022.

TRAI has issued an implementation plan for the New Regulatory Framework 2020 on 10th November 2021. Keeping in view the current pandemic situation across the country and requests received from the stakeholders, TRAI has released a letter dated 3rd February 2022 for an extension of the time limit for implementation of the New Regulatory Framework as under:

- a) All the Broadcasters shall report to the Authority, any change in name, nature, language, Maximum Retail Price (MRP) per month of channels, composition of bouquets, and MRP of bouquet of channels as per the New Regulatory Framework 2020, by 28th February 2022 and simultaneously publish such information on their websites.
- b) All the Distribution Platform Operators shall report to the Authority, the Distributor Retail Price (DRP) of pay channels, the composition of bouquet of pay channels/free-to-air channels, and the DRP of bouquet of pay channels, as per the New Regulatory Framework 2020 by 31st March 2022, and simultaneously publish the information on their websites.
- c) Further, all distributors of television channels should ensure that services to the subscribers are provided as per the bouquet of channels opted by the subscribers, with effect from 1st June 2022.

3. Open House Discussion

3.1 TRAI has held an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 8th February 2022 through video conferencing on the consultation paper on “Auction of spectrum in the frequency bands identified for IMT/5G”.



Open House Discussion (OHD) on 8th February 2022

3.2 TRAI has held an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 25th February 2022 through video conferencing on the consultation paper on “Licensing Framework for Establishing Satellite Earth station Gateway”.



Open House Discussion (OHD) on 25th February 2022

4. Webinar

4.1 Webinar on “Telecom Infrastructure for 5G readiness in North-Eastern State of India”

TRAI conducted a webinar on “Telecom Infrastructure for 5G readiness in North-Eastern State of India” through Regional Office, Kolkata via online meeting platform on 1st February, 2022.



Holding Webinars on such topics is important, in view of setting a collaborative atmosphere among Government & other stakeholders

Sh. V. Raghunandan,
Secretary, TRAI



Addressing the present telecom challenges for the implementation of 5G in India's NE region is important for better development

Sh. Mahendra Srivastava,
Pr. Advisor (CA, QoS & IT)

Details of the Webinar:

The Webinar started with a welcome address of Dr. S.K. Samanta, Advisor, Regional Office, Kolkata. He gave a brief introduction to the topic of the Webinar i.e., Telecom Infrastructure for 5G Deployment in North-East region of India.

The Webinar had four sessions covering important aspects of Telecom Infrastructure for 5G development in the North-Eastern states of India. Prof. Ratnajit Bhattacharjee, IIT Guwahati spoke on the topic 'The road to 5G – India's perspective' and explained about 5G, its use cases, initiatives taken in India. Sh. Vikram Tiwathia, DDG, COAI discussed on 5G deployment strategies, Infrastructure readiness of the country with analytical deliberation along with statistics in the form of charts & tables. Sh. S.T. Abbas, Advisor (NSL), TRAI HQ, gave a presentation on 5G spectrum, Licensing and QoS issues and other regulatory challenges & strategies to be adopted for implementation of 5G technology in India. Sh. Abdul Kayum, DDG, TEC, talked about 'Small Cell – 5G Deployment Challenges and Strategy' in detail from India's perspective.

Panel discussion was moderated by Dr. S.K. Samanta, Advisor, Regional Office, Kolkata, TRAI having distinguished experts in the telecom fields like Mr. N. Murali Kirshna, DDG Sikkim DoT, Mr. Uttam Poddar, Joint Director of IT, Tripura State Government, Professor Ratnajit Bhattacharjee of IIT Guwahati, Mr. Amarjit of PGCIL; Col. Vikram Tiwathia, DDG, COAI; and Mr. T.R. Dua, DG, DIPA.

They focused on various issues and challenges in rolling out 5G network by Telecom Service Providers in the North-East Region of India especially infrastructure deployment where the emphasis was laid on mutual collaboration between various stakeholders involved in the Telecom ecosystem. The Panellists proposed various suggestions including state-level seminars with all departments of state/central Government. in the state to facilitate the smooth expansion of telecom network in the North-East Region.

The sessions were followed by Question-Answer and discussions. The webinar was attended by faculty members & students from reputed Engineering Colleges, representatives from Consumer Advocacy Groups (CAGs), Officials from Govt. departments/PSUs, Telecom Service providers, and consumers.

5. Important Events



TRAI & FICCI conducted an interaction with leaders on 'Ease of doing business' on 4th February 2022. Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI emphasized that the enablement of entrepreneurs is necessary for the country's economy

6. Telecom Subscriptions

6.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st January 2022

| Particulars | Wireless | Wireline | Total |
|---|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions) | 627.12 | 22.26 | 649.38 |
| Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions) | 518.13 | 1.95 | 520.08 |
| Total Telephone subscribers (Millions) | 1145.24 | 24.21 | 1169 |
| Overall Tele-density (%) | 83.43 | 1.76 | 85.19 |
| Share of Urban Subscription (%) | 54.76 | 91.95 | 55.53 |
| Share of Rural Subscription (%) | 45.24 | 8.05 | 44.47 |
| No. of Broadband Subscribers (Millions) | 756.78 | 26.65 | 783.43 |

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in January 2022 were 1006.57 million.

In January 2022, 9.53 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of January 2022, a total of 670.95 million consumers have availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

7. Events

7.1 The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised during February 2022 through the online platform:

| Sl. No. | Place | Date |
|---------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Rajasthan | 11 th February 2022 |
| 2 | Goa | 22 nd February 2022 |
| 3 | Madhya Pradesh | 24 th February 2022 |
| 4 | Tamil Nadu | 25 th February 2022 |

PHOTO GALLERY



Consumer Outreach Program for Rajasthan held on 11th February 2022 by Regional Office, Jaipur



Consumer Outreach Program for Goa held on 22nd February 2022 by Regional Office, Bangalore



Consumer Outreach Program for Madhya Pradesh held on 24th February 2022 by Regional Office, Bhopal



Consumer Outreach Program for Tamil Nadu held on 25th February 2022 by Regional Office, Hyderabad


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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