

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



सत्यमेव जयते

E-NEWSLETTER



भादविप्रा
TRAI

September 2024



Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI addressed the 9th Flagship Summit of India Satcom 2024 at New Delhi on 7th August 2024.

Consultations

(1) TRAI released a Consultation Paper on “Reserve Prices for auction of FM Radio channel” on 1st August 2024

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) vide its reference dated 19th March 2024 sought TRAI's recommendations on reserve price for auction of FM Radio channels in 18 cities/towns in the states of Himanchal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir for the expansion of Private FM Radio. MIB also requested TRAI to recommend the reserve price for the cities of Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), Rourkela (Odisha) and Rudrapur (Uttarakhand).

In this regard, a Consultation Paper on 'Reserve Prices for auction of FM Radio channel' was released on 1st August 2024 for seeking comments/ counter-comments of the stakeholders on the determination of reserve prices for auction of FM Radio channels, under FM Phase-III Policy. Written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper were invited from stakeholders by 29th August 2024 and counter-comments by 12th September 2024, respectively.

https://www.traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_01082024_0.pdf



(2) TRAI released a Consultation Paper on “Audit related provisions of Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017 and the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Digital Addressable Systems Audit Manual” on 9th August 2024

TRAI released a Consultation Paper (CP) on “Audit related provisions of Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017 and the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Digital Addressable Systems Audit Manual” on 9th August 2024 for seeking comments from the stakeholders. The last date for comments was 6th September 2024 and counter-comments by 20th September 2024. The consultation paper aims to deal with the Amendments required in Audit related provisions in Interconnection Regulation 2017 (as amended), Amendments to Audit manual, enabling provisions for infrastructure sharing in Interconnection Regulation 2017 and Audit Manual.

https://www.traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_09082024_0.pdf



(3) TRAI released a Consultation Paper on “Review of the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 (TCCCPR-2018)” on 28th August 2024

TRAI released a Consultation Paper (CP) on “Review of the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 (TCCCPR-2018)” on 28th August 2024 for seeking comments from the stakeholders. The last date for comments is 25th September 2024 and counter-comments by 9th October 2024. The consultation paper aims to seek inputs on areas to strengthen the regulations, including stricter provisions against the Unregistered Telemarketers (UTMs) who harass the public through spam calls, improved complaint redressal mechanisms, more effective UCC detection systems, stronger financial disincentives for violation of regulatory provisions, and revised regulations for senders and telemarketers. The paper also explores the possibility of differential tariffs for voice calls and SMS to discourage UCC.

https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_28082024_0.pdf



Recommendations

(1) TRAI released Recommendations on " The Tera Hertz Spectrum " on 21st August 2024.

The Department of Telecommunication (DoT) vide its letter dated 8th December 2022 requested TRAI to provide recommendations, under Section 11(1)(a) of TRAI Act, 1997 (as amended), on 'Open and De-licensed use of Unused or Limited used Spectrum Bands for Demand Generation for Limited period in Tera Hertz Range'.

In this regard, TRAI issued a consultation paper on Open and Delicensed use of Unused or Limited Used Spectrum Bands for Demand Generation for Limited Period in Tera Hertz Range on 27.09.2023 for seeking comments and counter comments of stakeholders. In response, 17 stakeholders submitted their comments, and two stakeholders furnished their counter comments. An Open House Discussion on the Consultation Paper was held on 8th March 2024 through virtual mode.

Based on the reference received from stakeholders and on its own analysis, TRAI released its recommendations on 'The Tera Hertz Spectrum' The salient features of the Recommendations are as follows:

(a) The Government should introduce a new experimental authorization for the spectrum in the 95 GHz to 3 THz range termed as 'Tera Hertz Experimental Authorization' (THEA).

(b) The main elements of the authorization framework for THEA are given below:

(i) Purpose: The purpose of THEA should be to promote Research & Development (R&D), indoor and outdoor testing, technology trial, experimentation, and demonstration in the 95 GHz to 3 THz range.

(ii) Scope: The scope of THEA should be to conduct R&D, indoor and outdoor testing, technology trial, experimentation, and demonstration in the 95 GHz to 3 THz range; and to market experimental devices designed to operate in the 95 GHz to 3 THz range via direct sale.

(iii) Eligibility condition: Any Indian Entity (Academic institute, R&D Laboratory, Central/ State Government, Public Sector unit, Union Territory, Technology Park, Telecommunication Service Provider, Incubator, original equipment manufacturer, etc.) should be eligible to obtain THEA.

(iv) Marketing of experimental devices: Marketing of experimental devices designed to operate in the 95 GHz to 3 THz range should be permitted under THEA via direct sale.

(v) Authorization period: The authorization period of THEA should be up to five years. The authorization should be further extendable for periods of up to five years at a time.

(vi) Authorization fee: The authorization fee for THEA should be Rs. 1,000 for a period up to five years.

(c) Authorization and assignment: Exempt operations should be permitted in the 116-123 GHz, 174.8-182 GHz, 185-190 GHz, and 244-246 GHz frequency bands in India.

The Tera Hertz Experimental Authorization (THEA), recommended by the Authority, would encourage entrepreneurs and academia to develop innovative new technologies and services in the Tera Hertz band. THEA would help experimenters to evaluate the performance of products in the Tera Hertz band in the conception, development and design stages which would, in turn, pave a path to ascertain the technical viability of technologies and services built on the Tera Hertz spectrum. Upon implementation, the new experimental authorization regime recommended by the Authority will provide a boost to the 'Make in India' initiatives of the Government.

Detailed key recommendations can be accessed from the following link or QR code.

https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_21082024_0.pdf



Regulations

TRAI released the revised “The Standards of Quality of Service of Access (Wireline and Wireless) and Broadband (Wireline and Wireless) Service Regulations, 2024 (06 od 2024)” on 2nd August 2024

TRAI released the revised Regulation namely - “The Standards of Quality of Service of Access (Wireline and Wireless) and Broadband (Wireline and Wireless) Service Regulations, 2024 (06 od 2024)” on 2nd August 2024. These regulations apply to Access Service Providers for Access Services (Wireline and Wireless) and Broadband (Wireline and Wireless). These regulations will come into force from 1st October 2024.

Open House Discussion

Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Framework for Service Authorizations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 on 21st August 2024

TRAI conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 21st August 2024 on "The Framework for Service Authorizations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023" through video conferencing.

Some video grabs of the said OHD are attached below:



Events

- On 2nd August 2024, TRAI and the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) entered into a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) for TRAI's IT system study, software development and maintenance activities. The MoU shall facilitate TRAI to upgrade the various consumer centric applications and make them more user friendly.



- Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI addressed the 9th Flagship Summit of India Satcom 2024 at New Delhi on 7th August 2024.



- On 8th August 2024, TRAI regional officers conference was organized wherein officers of all TRAI regional offices as well as TRAI HQ participated. In the conference various issues related to telecom and broadcasting have been deliberated such as Audit of Quality of services (network performance, metering and billing), curbing spams, enhancing reach and synchronizing consumer outreach/ customer awareness programs, monitoring performance of MSOs and LCOs, tariff and other financial issues, empowering regional offices etc. In the inaugural session Sh. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI addressed the officers.



- On 23rd August 2024, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA) delegation headed by Mr. Julian Gorman, Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA visited TRAI for bilateral meeting with Mr. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI, Mr. Atul Kumar Chaudhary, Secretary-TRAI. Ms. Jeanette Whyte, Head of Public Policy- GSMA also attended the meeting.



- On 28th August 2024 Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI with senior officers and staff of TRAI attended the workshop on "AI Framework, Governance and Applications" conducted by M/S Ericsson at TRAI HQ.



Miscellaneous Activities

- TRAI issued an updated list of empaneled auditors on 2nd August 2024 and 12th August 2024 to carry out an audit of digital addressable system. During the month of August 2024,
 - (a) A new auditor namely M/s Saffo Solution Technology has been empaneled.
 - (b) Two auditors namely (i) M/s Tanuj Garg & Associates and (ii) M/s Acquisory Consulting LLP have been granted extension of their empanelment and
 - (c) Name of five auditors namely (i) M/s D. Patwary & Co, (ii) M/s Habibullah & Co, (iii) M/s A. R. Bhansali & Co, (iv) M/s ABPS & Associates and (v) Ashish Mahajan & Co have been removed due to the expiry of their existing period of empanelment.

The total number of auditors empaneled by TRAI to carry out the audit of DAS as on 31st August 2024 is 47.

- TRAI issued a letter to all the Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs) on 21.08.2024 advising them to get the audit of their system done to comply with the provision of sub-regulation (1) of regulation 15 of the Interconnection Regulations; and the audit process, including issue of final report by the auditor, should be completed latest by 31.12.2024 positively to avoid imposition of financial disincentive as per provisions of sub-regulation 1A of regulation 15 of the Interconnection Regulation.

Telecom Subscriptions

Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st July 2024

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Million)	635.46	32.50	667.96
Rural Telephone subscribers (Million)	534.15	3.06	537.21
Total Telephone subscribers (Million)	1169.61	35.56	1205.17
Overall Tele-density (%)	83.32	2.53	85.85
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.33	91.39	55.42
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.67	8.61	44.58
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	904.21	41.98	946.19

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in July 2024 were 1059.56 million.

In July 2024, 13.68 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of July 2024, a total of 1011.13 million consumers availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

Consumer Outreach Programs

TRAI conducted Special Consumer Outreach Programmes (SCOPs)/ Consumer Outreach Programme (COPs) for different sections of the society as under:

S. No.	Place	Date
1.	Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) by TRAI RO, Hyderabad	1 st August 2024
2.	Satna (Madhya Pradesh) by TRAI RO, Bhopal	1 st August 2024
3.	Rohtas (Bihar) by TRAI RO, Kolkata	8 th August 2024
4.	Pune (Maharashtra) by TRAI RO, Bengaluru	16 th August 2024
5.	Pathankot (Punjab) by TRAI RO, Jaipur	22 nd August 2024
6.	Murshidabad (West Bengal) by TRAI RO, Kolkata	29 th August 2024
7.	Shivamogga (Karnataka) by TRAI RO, Bengaluru	30 th August 2024

Photo Gallery



TRAI Regional Office, Hyderabad conducted a COP at Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) on 1st August 2024



TRAI Regional Office, Bhopal conducted a COP at Satna (Madhya Pradesh) on 1st August 2024



TRAI Regional Office, Kolkata conducted a COP at Rohtas (Bihar) on 8th August 2024



TRAI Regional Office, Bengaluru conducted a COP at Pune (Maharashtra) on 16th August 2024



TRAI Regional Office, Jaipur conducted a COP at Pathankot (Punjab) on 22nd August 2024



TRAI Regional Office, Kolkata conducted a COP at Murshidabad (West Bengal) on 29th August 2024



TRAI Regional Office, Bengaluru conducted a COP at Shivamogga (Karnataka) on 30th August 2024

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

www.trai.gov.in

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