

# TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-NEWSLETTER



**MARCH 2021**



**Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI, addressed the staff on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, and a New Common Room is dedicated to the women employees.**

# 1. Recommendations

## 1.1 TRAI has sent its Recommendations regarding the platform services on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) on its back references:

Platform services are the programming services which are specific to the platform and are not obtained from satellite-based broadcasters. These programming services are either produced by the Distribution Platform Operators (DPO) viz. MSO, DTH itself or are sourced from certain local content producers.

TRAI gave its recommendations on the subject in 2014 and also in 2019 specifically for DTH. TRAI received two letters dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 from MIB referring back some of the issues in these recommendations for reconsideration.

In the first back reference, MIB has referred-back some of TRAI's recommendations dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 on "Regulatory Framework for Platform Services" for reconsideration. In the second back reference, MIB proposed some of the TRAI recommendations on "Platform Services Offered by DTH Operators" dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to be adopted by MSOs also.

In this context, as some of the issues had not been specifically put into the consultation earlier, TRAI issued a consultation paper in the form of draft response of TRAI on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

After considering the observations of MIB, written comments from stakeholders and its own analysis, the Authority has finalised its recommendations and sent it to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) on both the back references. The Authority gave its reconsidered recommendation on MIB views on the following issues:

- Anybody registered as a distributor, either with MIB or with a post office shall be eligible to carry platform service channel: TRAI indicated that it has no objection provided MIB ensures that the platform service provider discloses ownership status and complies with the program and advertising codes.
- MSO may be permitted to a maximum 5% and LCO to a maximum of 1% of total permitted satellite channels being carried out by them as the permitted platform service channels: TRAI recommended a maximum 15 Platform service channels for Distributors.
- MIB may withdraw from distribution of platform service channel if it is inimical to Indian National Security: TRAI agreed and suggested to

MIB to put a condition that the Distributor must notify if there is any change in the ownership/control.

The Authority also agreed with the view of MIB to adopt the recommendations regarding the Platform Service for DTH, to other distributors such as MSOs, IPTV, and HITS on the following aspects:

- Definition of platform service.
- Conditions for platform service which include:
  - Not sharing the platform service channel with other distributors.
  - No registered TV channel or time shifted channel shall be transmitted as a platform channel.
  - Undertaking on these aspects.
  - TRAI can stop such channels if it is non-compliant. MIB can cancel the registration of distributor
- Distributors shall provide option to activate/deactivate Platform service subject to orders/regulations/directions of TRAI.
- Platform service channels should be categorised under genre “Platform Service”, MRP shall be displayed, and the caption should be displayed to distinguish from linear channels.

More details can be accessed on the following link.



[https://tra.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations\\_02022021\\_0.pdf](https://tra.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_02022021_0.pdf)

## 2. Directions

### **2.1 TRAI issued a direction on 15th February 2021 regarding the submission of Performance Monitoring Report to the Authority under the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulations, 2018.**

The Authority regulates unsolicited commercial calls/messages through the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulations, 2018.

There exists a provision in regulation 26 of these Regulations that every access provider shall submit its compliance reports in the manner specified by the Authority from time to time. Under this provision TRAI specified reporting formats to service providers vide direction dated 6th August 2019.

Now, on request from service providers and to monitor the overall performance of the measures taken by the access providers, these formats have been revised through this direction.



[https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Direction\\_15022021.pdf](https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Direction_15022021.pdf)

## 2.2 TRAI issued Direction to various MSOs:

TRAI issued directions on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to MSOs viz. M/s UCN Cable Network Pvt. Ltd., M/s Kerala Communicators Cable Ltd., M/s KAL Cables Pvt Ltd., M/s GTPL Hathway Ltd., and M/s Fastway Transmissions Pvt. Ltd., to ensure compliance to the New regulatory framework of Broadcasting and cable services. These directions were issued after it was observed that the said MSOs have not complied with certain provisions of the new regulatory framework.

Directions are accessible in the following links:



[https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Direction\\_UCN\\_09022021.pdf](https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Direction_UCN_09022021.pdf)



[https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Direction\\_Kal\\_Cables\\_09022021.pdf](https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Direction_Kal_Cables_09022021.pdf)



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[https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Direction\\_Fastway\\_09022021.pdf](https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Direction_Fastway_09022021.pdf)

## 3. Webinar

### 3.1 TRAI conducted a webinar on “Data Privacy, Safety and Security” on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

In today’s time, data privacy, safety and security is a key concern in the world and one should know the importance of data privacy.

In this context, TRAI, Regional Office, Hyderabad, organized a webinar on “Data Privacy, Safety and Security” on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The webinar was inaugurated by Shri Sanjeev Banzal, Advisor (CA& IT), HQ.

Shri A Munisekhar, Advisor, RO (HYD) welcomed the participants. Presentations were made by Dr. Abhinav Kumar, Associate Professor, IIT Hyderabad, Shri SVN Murali, Vice President of Engineering Chainyard, USA, Dr. V. Balakista Reddy, Professor of Law & Registrar, NALSAR University, Hyderabad, Shri M Jagadish Babu, Project Manager, ISEA, C-DAC, Hyderabad, Shri S.K. Singhal, Advisor, TRAI, New Delhi.

The webinar was attended by a large number of participants viz. faculty members and students from various Engineering colleges, i.e., BVRIT Narsapur, KL University Guntur, CBIT Hyderabad, VNR VJIET Hyderabad, SIET Amalapuram, Government functionaries like DoT, TERM, Telangana State, etc.; Industry organizations, etc.; Consumer Advocacy Groups (CAGs); TSPs, etc.



**Webinar on “Data Privacy, Safety and Security” held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

## 4. Open House Discussion (OHD)

### 4.1 TRAI conducted OHD on the Consultation paper on "Roadmap to Promote Broadband Connectivity and Enhanced Broadband Speed"

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021, through Video Conferencing, on the Consultation Paper on "Roadmap to Promote Broadband Connectivity and Enhanced Broadband Speed" dated 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020. This OHD was attended by around 120 participants (including TRAI Officers). During the OHD, all stakeholders were asked to submit further comments, if any, by 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

## 5. Other Information

### 5.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless + Wireline)
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	634.97	18.32	653.29
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	528.44	1.75	530.19
<b>Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)</b>	<b>1163.41</b>	<b>20.07</b>	<b>1183.48</b>
Overall Tele-density (%)	85.53	1.48	87.01
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.58	91.27	55.20
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.42	8.73	44.80
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	734.94	22.67	757.61

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in January 2021 were 978.68 million.

In January 2021, 7.63 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. Till the end of January 2021, a total of 552.24 million consumers have availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

## **5.2 Panel of Auditors to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS)**

TRAI releases updated list of panel of auditors to carry out digital addressable systems from time to time. In this context, TRAI released the updated panel of auditors on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021. This updated list can be accessed through the below link.



[https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Audit\\_List\\_10022021\\_0.pdf](https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Audit_List_10022021_0.pdf)

## **6. Events**

### **6.1 Meeting of the Committee on Utilization of Telecommunication Consumer Education and Protection Fund (CUTCEF) held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 through the online mode.**

TRAI conducted CUTCEF meeting through the online mode on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021..

The meeting was inaugurated by Shri S.K. Gupta Secretary, TRAI, and Ex-Officio Presiding Member. Shri Sanjeev Banzal, Advisor (IT&CA), the Convener Member of the Committee, welcomed the participants and informed them about the purpose of holding the meeting in terms of the provisions of CUTCEF Regulation.

A detailed presentation was made before the committee on the activities undertaken during 2020–21 from TCEPF. Thereafter, the committee discussed and decided on the following items of the agenda:

- i) Approval of TCEPF audited accounts for 2019–20.
- ii) Report of achievements of the current year and proposed Items of Expenditure for 2021–22.

4. Secretary, TRAI, summed up the discussions and expressed gratitude on behalf of TRAI to the members for their cooperation and active participation in the CUTCEF committee.

5. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Sh. S.M.K. Chandra, Joint Advisor (CA), to the committee.



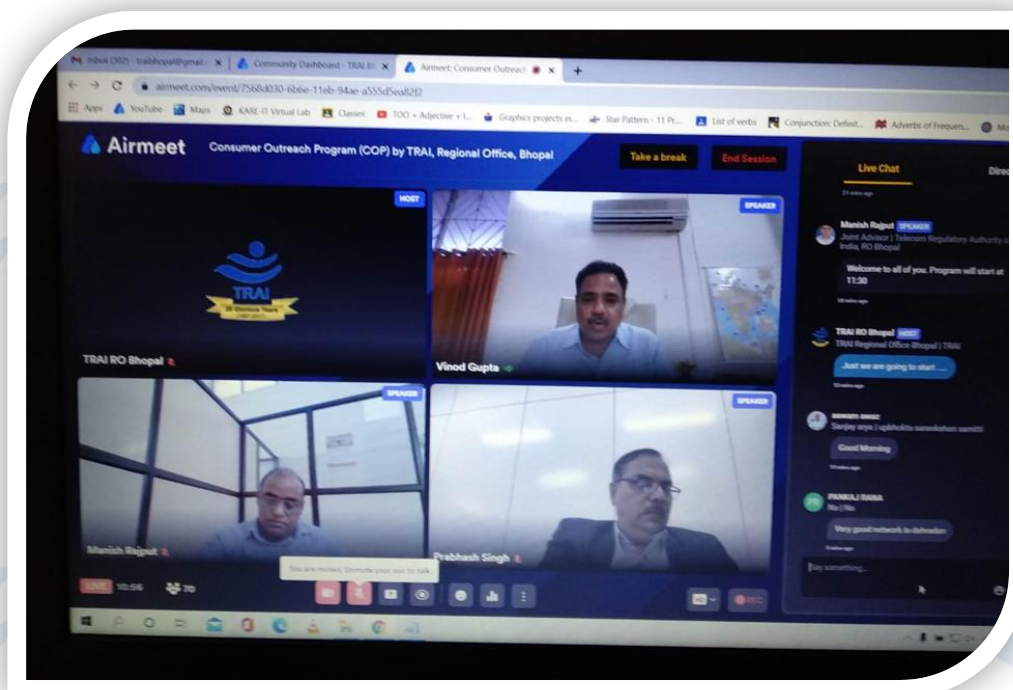
### CUTCEF meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

6.1 The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised during February 2021 through the online mode:

Sl. No.	Place	Date
1	Kerala LSA	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
2	Uttarakhand	25 <sup>th</sup> February 2021



## PHOTO GALLERY



### CoP for Uttarakhand held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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

**[www.traigov.in](http://www.traigov.in)**

**Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg,  
(Old Minto Road), New Delhi.**

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