

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-NEWSLETTER



MAY 2024



Sh. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI delivering the keynote address at the Webinar on ‘5G Engagement and Experience Sharing’, co-organized by International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and India on 16th April 2024.

Consultations

(1) TRAI released a Consultation Paper on “Inputs for formulation of National Broadcasting Policy-2024” on 2nd April 2024.

TRAI released a Consultation Paper (CP) on “Inputs for formulation of National Broadcasting Policy-2024” on 2nd April 2024 for seeking comments from the stakeholders. The last date for comments was 30th April 2024. The CP highlights pertinent issues prevalent in the Broadcasting sector with an objective of making India a 'Global Content Hub'. The CP raises questions on the policy and regulatory measures and the strategies to be adopted for increasing the contribution to the economy through universal reach, fostering innovation with focus on R&D, facilitating job creation, skill development and start-up promotion. The paper also discusses on strengthening the public service broadcasting, issues on various segments of media and entertainment sector, combating piracy and ensuring content security, robust audience measurement system, terrestrial broadcasting and socio-environmental responsibilities.



https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_02042024_0.pdf

(2) TRAI released a Consultation Paper on “Auction of Spectrum in 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40 GHz and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands Identified for IMT” on 4th April 2024.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) requested TRAI to provide its recommendations on applicable reserve price, band plan, block size, quantum of spectrum to be auctioned and associated conditions for auction of spectrum, inter-alia, in 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40 GHz, and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands including the regulatory technical requirements as enunciated in the relevant provisions of the latest NFAP/Radio Regulations of the ITU.

In this regard, a Consultation Paper on “Auction of Spectrum in 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40 GHz and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands Identified for IMT” was released on 04.04.2024 seeking comments from stakeholders. Written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper were invited from the stakeholders by 02.05.2024 and counter-comments by 16.05.2024. However, on the request of industry associations, the last date for submission of written comments and counter-comments was extended up to 16.05.2024 and 30.05.2024, respectively in first instance.



https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_04042024_0.pdf

Recommendations

(1) TRAI released Recommendations on "Encouraging Innovative Technologies, Services, Use Cases, and Business Models through Regulatory Sandbox in Digital Communication Sector" on 12th April 2024.

The Department of Telecommunication (DoT) vide its letter No. 20-405/2013-AS-I (Vol.V) dated 10th March 2023 had, inter-alia, requested the Authority to furnish its recommendations as per Section 11(1)(a) of TRAI Act 1997, as amended on "Recommendation on framework for Regulatory sandbox for emerging technologies, services, and business models in Telecom sector"

Based on the reference received from DoT, stakeholders feedback and in line with the definition of Regulatory Sandbox as provided in the Telecommunication Act' 2023, which emphasize on testing of new products, services, processes, and business models in live testing environment on a limited set of users for a specified period of time after obtaining certain regulatory relaxations, the Authority has finalized its recommendations on "Encouraging Innovative Technologies, Services, Use Cases and Business Models through Regulatory Sandbox in Digital Communication Sector" and sent the same to Department of Telecommunication (DoT) on 12.04.2024 for consideration.

By providing a framework for regulatory sandbox that enables various digital communication sector entities to work together in a structured manner, these recommendations are expected to synergize the efforts of innovators, startups, telecommunications companies, government agencies, and regulators to boost innovation and the start-up ecosystem.

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

https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_12042024.pdf



(2) TRAI released Recommendations on "Telecommunication Infrastructure Sharing, Spectrum Sharing, and Spectrum Leasing" on 24th April 2024.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India sought TRAI's recommendations under the TRAI Act, 1997 on allowing sharing of core network elements such as MSC, HLR, IN etc., among telecom operators. In this regard, a Consultation Paper on "Telecommunication Infrastructure Sharing, Spectrum Sharing, and Spectrum Leasing" was released on 13.01.2023 seeking comments from stakeholders. In response, 21 comments and 05 counter-comments were received from stakeholders. An open house discussion (OHD) on the consultation paper was held on 24.05.2023 through virtual mode.

Based on the reference received from DOT, comments/inputs received from stakeholders, extensive deliberations on the subject and upon its own analysis, TRAI has released its Recommendations on **“Telecommunication Infrastructure Sharing, Spectrum Sharing, and Spectrum Leasing”** on 24th April 2024.

The salient features of the recommendations are as follows:

- Permitting telecommunication service licensees to share passive infrastructure like buildings, towers, electrical equipment, etc.
- Allowing sharing of active infrastructure elements among telecommunication service licensees.
- Including provisions in future Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) projects to ensure sharing of passive infrastructure.
- Exploring feasibility of instructing existing USOF projects to share passive infrastructure.
- Mandating telecom service providers to allow roaming on their networks in remote areas with government funding for a specific period.
- Permitting inter-band access spectrum sharing among access service providers.
- Exploring implementation of authorized shared access (ASA) for spectrum sharing.
- Conducting field trials of ASA-based spectrum sharing under DoT supervision.
- Permitting leasing of access spectrum among access service providers.

Overall, these recommendations aim to promote efficient use of infrastructure and spectrum resources in the Telecommunications sector.

https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_24042024_0.pdf



Open House Discussions

- (1) An Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Consultation Paper on "Review of Quality-of-Service standards for Access Services (wireless and wireline) and Broadband Services (wireless and wireline)" was held on 9th April 2024.**

TRAI conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 9th April 2024 on the Consultation Paper on "Review of Quality-of-Service standards for Access Services (wireless and wireline) and Broadband Services (wireless and wireline)" through video conferencing. Some video grabs of the said OHD are attached below:



- (2) An Open House Discussion (OHD) on Consultation Paper on "Review of Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting and Cable services" was held on 18th April 2024.**

Another Open House Discussion (OHD) was held on 18th April 2024, through Video Conferencing in connection with the Consultation Paper on "Review of Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting and Cable services" dated 08.08.2023. This OHD was attended by around 100 participants (including TRAI officers).

Some visuals of the said OHD are attached below:



Events

- TRAI Chairman, Sh. Anil Kumar Lahoti, along with the Secretary TRAI, visited NTIPRIT campus on 5th April 2024. He was warmly received by Sh. Atul Sinha, DDG- NTIPRIT. During his visit, Chairman TRAI engaged with NTIPRIT officers.



- Chairman, TRAI also participated in the Webinar on ‘5G Engagement and Experience Sharing’, co-organized by International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and India, in the presence of Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, ITU on 16th April 2024. Delegates from 16 countries from Asia Pacific region representing Ministries, Regulators and other stakeholders participated in this Webinar. Eminent speakers shared their experiences on 5G rollout planning and implementation.

5G Engagement and Experience Sharing



Telecom Subscriptions

Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st March 2024:

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Million)	634.47	30.92	665.38
Rural Telephone subscribers (Million)	531.02	2.88	533.90
Total Telephone subscribers (Million)	1165.49	33.79	1199.28
Overall Tele-density (%)	83.27	2.41	85.69
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.44	91.49	55.48
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.56	8.51	44.52
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	884.01	40.06	924.07

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in March 2024 were 1057.71 million.

In March 2024, 11.44 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of March 2024, a total of 962.53 million consumers availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

Consumer Outreach Programs

Regional Office(Kolkata) of TRAI conducted a Consumer Outreach Program (COP) for different sections of the society as under:

S. No.	Place	Date
1	Sitamarhi (Bihar)	18 th April 2024



**Consumer Outreach Program at Sitamarhi (Bihar) on 18th April 2024
by RO Kolkata**

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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