

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-NEWSLETTER



August 2024



Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman TRAI graced the Curtain Raiser of the first World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2024 and participated in the CEO Round Table program held at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi on 13th July 2024

Consultations

(1) TRAI released a Consultation Paper on “Framework for Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023” on 11th July 2024

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) through a letter dated 21st June 2024 informed TRAI that the Telecommunications Act, 2023 has been published in the Official Gazette of India. Section 3(1)(a) of the Act provides for obtaining an authorisation by any entity/ person intending to provide telecommunication services, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed. DoT through the said letter, under Section 11(1)(a) of the TRAI Act, 1997 (as amended), requested TRAI to provide its recommendations on terms and conditions, including fees or charges, for authorisation to provide telecommunication services as per the provisions of the Telecommunications Act 2023.

In this regard, a Consultation Paper on ‘Framework for the Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023’ was released on 11th July 2024 for seeking comments/ counter-comments from stakeholders. Written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper were invited from stakeholders by 01st August 2024 and counter-comments by 08th August 2024, respectively.

https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_11072024_0.pdf



(2) TRAI released a Consultation Paper on “Review of Telecom Consumer Protection Regulation (TCPR), 2012” on 26th July 2024

TRAI released a Consultation Paper (CP) on “Review of Telecom Consumer Protection Regulation (TCPR), 2012” on 26th July 2024 for seeking comments from the stakeholders. The last date for comments was 16th August 2024 and counter-comments by 23rd August 2024. The consultation paper aims to review the provisions regarding different types of tariff offerings. In this regard, a consumer survey done under the aegis of TRAI in respect of "Tariffs of telecommunication services and related issues" to initiate consultation process on several issues i.e., "choice of tariff availability" and "validity of vouchers". Further, considering the request of telecom industry the issue of "colour coding of vouchers" and "denomination vouchers" has also been identified for consultation.

https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_26072024.pdf



Regulations

TRAI notified Amendments to the Regulatory framework for Broadcasting and Cable Services

On 8th July 2024, TRAI issued Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Eighth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff (Fourth Amendment) Order, 2024 (1 of 2024), Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2024 (4 of 2024), the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Standards of Quality of Service and Consumer Protection (Addressable Systems) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2024 (3 of 2024). These amendments, except for a few clauses, shall come into force after 90 days from the date of their publication in the official gazette. The primary objective of these amendments includes the following:

- a) Facilitate growth of the Broadcasting sector by reducing regulatory mandates and compliance requirements.
- b) Provide flexibility to the service providers to adopt a market driven approach while safeguarding the interest of the consumers and small players through transparency, accountability and equitability.
- c) Promoting ease of doing business by simplifying the regulatory provisions.

The salient features of these amendments include the following:

Tariff Order:

- Ceiling of Rs. 130 for 200 channels and Rs. 160 on more than 200 channels has been removed on Network Capacity Fee (NCF) and is kept under forbearance to make it market driven as well as equitable. Service providers may now charge different NCF based on number of channels, different regions, different customer classes or any combination thereof.
- DPOs have now been permitted to offer discounts up to 45% while forming their bouquets to enable flexibility for them in forming bouquets and to offer attractive deals to the consumers. Earlier this discount was permitted only up to 15%.
- A pay channel available at no subscription fee on the DTH platform of the public service broadcaster has to be declared free-to-air by the broadcaster of the channel for all the addressable distribution platforms also so as to have a level-playing field.
- DPOs have been mandated to declare tariff of their platform services.

Interconnection Regulations:

- With the proliferation of HD television sets and to encourage transmission of high-definition content, distinction between HD and SD channels has been removed for the purpose of carriage fee.
- The carriage fee regime simplified and made technology neutral by prescribing only a single ceiling for carriage fee, thereby, providing the DPOs with the option to charge a lesser carriage fee as deemed appropriate.

QoS Regulations:

- Charges for services like installation and activation, visiting, relocation and temporary suspension which were prescribed earlier under the regulation have now been kept under forbearance. DPOs have to publish the charges of their services for clarity and transparency to consumers.
- Relaxation of certain regulatory compliances for small DPOs.
- Duration/Term/Validity of all prepaid subscriptions to be specified in number of days, only for greater clarity to the consumers.
- DPOs may display Distributor Retail Price (DRP) in the electronic programme guide (EPG) along with MRP for channels.
- DPOs to categorise platform service channels under the genre 'Platform Services' in the EPG.
- DPOs to display respective MRP of the platform service channel in the EPG against each platform service to ensure transparency.
- DPOs to provide an option of activation/deactivation of any platform service.

Financial disincentives:

- Financial disincentives have been introduced for contravention to provisions of the Tariff Order and certain other provisions of Interconnection Regulation and QoS Regulation to ensure accountability of service providers.
- Service providers to publish all the information related to tariffs and other charges which have now been kept under forbearance, on their websites. Moreover, they need to communicate the tariff and other charges to the subscribers, pertaining to the plans being subscribed to.


The amended tariff order /regulations can be accessed from the following link or QR code.

Fourth amendment Tariff order: 

https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Regulation_Tariff_4th_amd_08072024_0.pdf

Sixth amendment of Interconnection regulations: 

https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Regulation_Interconnectionj_6th_08072024_0.pdf

Fourth amendment of QOS regulations: 

https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Regulation_qos_4th_08072024_0.pdf

Recommendations

TRAI releases Recommendations on listing of television channels in Electronic Programme Guide and Upgradation of DD Free Dish platform to an Addressable System on 08th July 2024

On 8th July 2024 TRAI issued recommendations to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) on 'Listing of television channels in Electronic Programme Guide and Upgradation of DD Free Dish platform to an Addressable System'.

The salient features of these recommendations are as follows:

Listing of channels in Electronic Programme Guide (EPG):

While giving permission to each channel, MIB to seek information from broadcasters about the primary language of each channel and sub-genre of every non-news channel as per Interconnection Regulation 2017 and display the same on Broadcast Seva portal of MIB to enable DPOs to place the channel at appropriate place in the EPG for easy navigation by the consumers, in accordance with the present regulation.

Upgradation of DD Free Dish platform to an addressable system:

- In order to ensure quality of viewing experience, prevent unauthorized re-transmission of television channels to combat piracy and maintain the record of subscribers, Prasar Bharati needs to take steps to convert DD Free Dish platform from a non-addressable

system to an addressable system and make a beginning by encrypting the signals of private satellite television channels at DD Free Dish headend before uplinking. Subsequently, all other channels of DD Free Dish may also be transmitted in encrypted form.

- Public service broadcasters will be provided with the requisite exemptions of TRAI Regulations, once such notification is issued by the MIB.
- Prasar Bharati may utilize indigenous technologies for Conditional Access System (CAS), Subscriber Management System (SMS) and interoperable Set Top Boxes (STBs).
- Prasar Bharati should adopt interoperable STBs for DD Free Dish to act as catalyst for transitioning the entire ecosystem from operator-based STBs to interoperable STBs to empower consumers' choice. This will eliminate the need for changing STBs every time the service provider is changed.

A roadmap for transition of DD Free Dish from non-addressable to addressable platform along with authorising manufacturers and distributors by Prasar Bharati for sales and aftersales service of STBs, has been suggested to MIB. MIB may direct private DPOs to adopt and implement interoperable STBs.

The detailed salient features of the above recommendations can be fetched from the following link or QR code.

https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_08072024_0.pdf

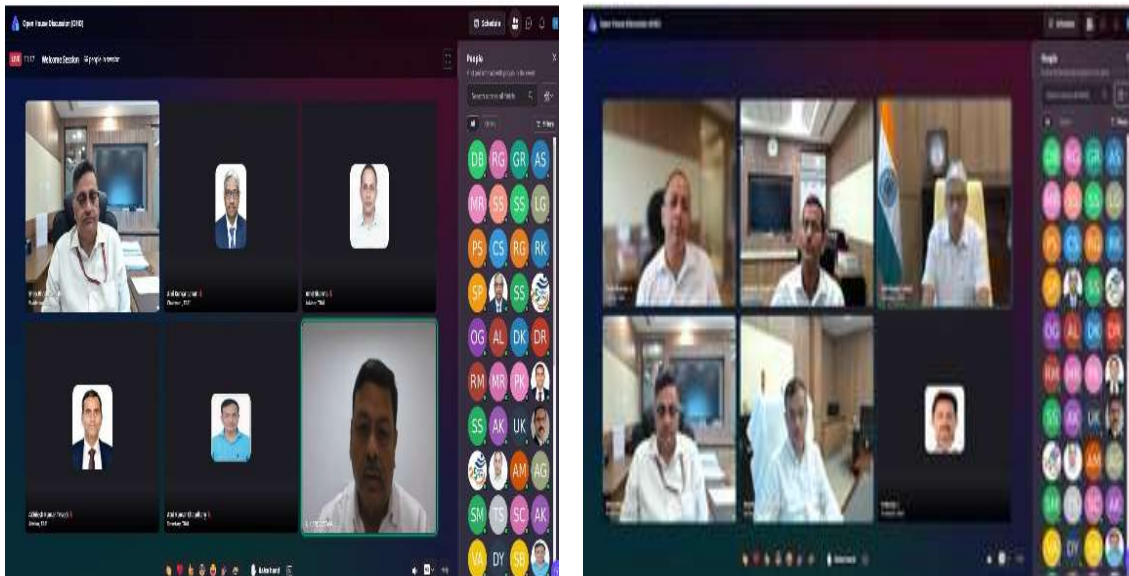


Open House Discussion

Open House Discussion (OHD) on Consultation Paper on “Auction of Frequency Spectrum in 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5- 40 GHz, and 42.5- 43.5 GHz bands Identified for IMT” held on 10.07.2024

TRAI conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 10th July 2024 on the Consultation Paper on "Auction of Frequency Spectrum in 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5- 40 GHz, and 42.5- 43.5 GHz bands Identified for IMT" through video conferencing.

Some video grabs of the said OHD are attached below:

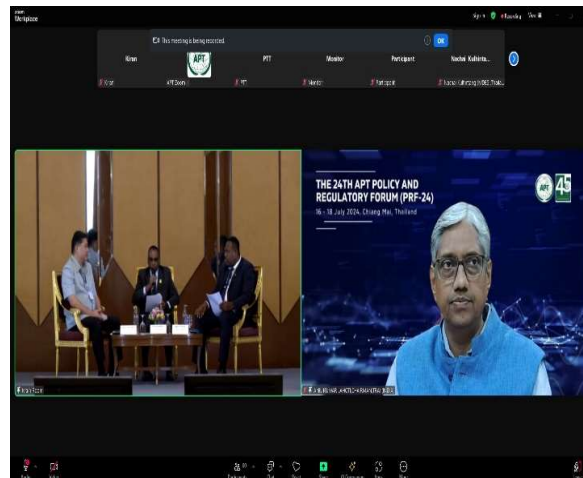
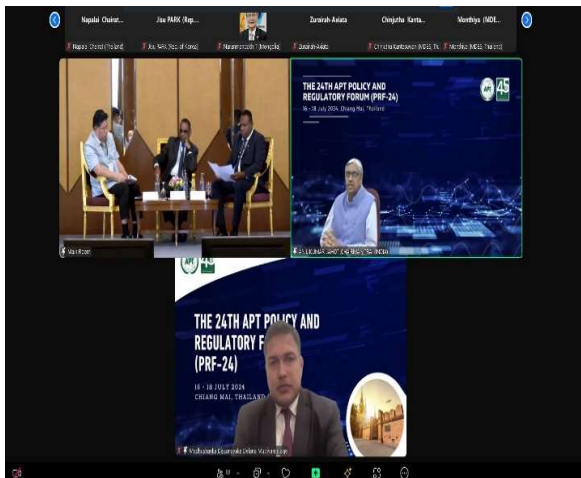


Events

- Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman TRAI graced the Curtain Raiser of the first World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2024 and participated in the CEO Round Table program held at The Ashok, New Delhi on 13th July 2024



- Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI spoke online at the Regulators Round-table, 24th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum being held in Thailand (16 – 18 July 2024). He shared his thoughts on 'Conducive ICT Policies and regulations for inclusive and Universal Digital Landscape' on 16th July 2024



- Chairman TRAI also addressed the ITU Area Office for South Asia and Innovation Centre consultation meeting with South Asian member states held on 31st July 2024 in New Delhi



Miscellaneous Activities

- TRAI released report of Operator assisted drive tests (OADT) on 26.07.2024, which were conducted in 20 cities and their surrounding areas and highways namely: Adilabad, Amreli, Ayodhya City, Ayodhya to Lucknow Highways, Bhopal to Delhi Railways Route, Darjeeling, Dhenkanal, East Godavari, Jaipur City, Jaipur to Sohna (Haryana) Highway, Kalaburgi, Kasargod, Kevadia to Dakorji Highway Route, Kohima-Tseminyu-WokhaMokokchung-Zunheboto, Nagaland, Nanded, North & Middle Andaman, Rajkot-Amreli-Rajula Highway, Tura & Resubelpara, Meghalaya, Vadodara City, for the quarter ending March-2024.
- TRAI finalized the agency for Independent Drive Test for assessment of QoS for wireless services.
- A Press Release was issued on 26th July 2024 on achieving a milestone on 6th July 2024, of crossing the 100 crore (1 billion) mark of Mobile Number Portability (MNP) requests processed in the country since January 2011.
- On 24th July 2024 an Order was released under Section 12 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997) to the Access Providers to furnish information in respect of senders and Unregistered Telemarketers (UTM) who are violating the provisions of the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 (6 of 2018).

Telecom Subscriptions

Telecom Subscription Data as on 30th June 2024

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Million)	635.00	32.13	667.13
Rural Telephone subscribers (Million)	535.53	2.98	538.51
Total Telephone subscribers (Million)	1170.53	35.11	1205.64
Overall Tele-density (%)	83.45	2.50	85.95
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.25	91.51	55.33
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.75	8.49	44.67
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	898.92	41.83	940.75

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in June 2024 were 1061.04 million.

In June 2024, 11.84 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of June 2024, a total of 997.44 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	Narsapur (Andhra Pradesh) by TRAI RO, Hyderabad	5 th July 2024
2	Rajsamand (Rajasthan) by TRAI RO, Jaipur	19 th July 2024
3	Thiruchirapalli (Trichy) Tamil Nadu by TRAI RO, Hyderabad	25 th July 2024
4	Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) by TRAI RO, Kolkata	25 th July 2024
5	Dombivili (Maharashtra) by TRAI RO, Bengaluru	25 th July 2024

Photo Gallery



TRAI Regional Office Hyderabad conducted a COP at Narsapur (Andhra Pradesh) on 5th July 2024



TRAI Regional Office Jaipur conducted a COP at Rajsamand (Rajasthan) on 19th July 2024



TRAI Regional Office Hyderabad conducted a COP at Thiruchirapalli (Trichy) Tamil Nadu on 25th July 2024



TRAI Regional Office Kolkata conducted a COP at Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) on 25th July 2024



TRAI Regional Office Bengaluru conducted a COP at Dombivili (Maharashtra) on 25th July 2024

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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