

# TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



## E-NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2023



**Dr. P. D. Vaghela, Chairperson TRAI addressed the Telecom Industry Leaders in Digital Telco Summit-2023, jointly organized by the TRAI Centre of Studies & Research and ET Telecom at ITC Maurya, New Delhi on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023.**

# Recommendations

## **Recommendations on ‘Introduction of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) Authorization under Unified License (UL)’ dated 08<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

The National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP-2018) emphasizes digital infrastructure stating that "Digital infrastructure and services are increasingly emerging as key enablers and critical determinants of a country's growth and well-being". Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI) is essential for the growth of the global data economy. A robust DCI contributes significantly to economic development both by increasing productivity and by providing amenities that enhance the quality of life. DCI plays a vital and leading role in successful implementation of various Government schemes under Digital India, Make in India, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), and development of Smart Cities. DCI's growth drivers include the commercialization of 5G, increasing demand for internet and cloud infrastructure, proliferation of IoT sensors and devices as well as private LTE networks, among others.

TRAI received a reference from DoT vide its letter dated 11.08.2022 wherein it has been stated that competent authority has decided for creation of a new category license "Telecom Infrastructure License (TIL)". Such licensees may be permitted to establish, maintain, and work on all equipment for wireline access, radio access and transmission links, except the core equipment and holding of spectrum. DoT has sought recommendations on this new category of license and its terms and conditions of such license, applicable license fee etc.

Accordingly, TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on 'Introduction of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider Authorization under Unified License (UL)' on 09th February 2023. Based on the comments! inputs received from the stakeholders during consultation process, discussion held during OHD and further analysis of the issues, the Authority has finalized Recommendations on 'Introduction of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider Authorization under Unified License (UL)'

The salient features of the recommendations are as follows:

- i) Creation of a new category of License that allows for creation of both active as well as passive digital connectivity infrastructure.
- ii) The scope of the proposed DCIP authorization includes to own, establish, maintain, and work all such apparatus, appliance, instrument, equipment, and system which are required for establishing all Wireline Access Network, Radio Access Network (RAN), Wi-Fi systems, and Transmission Links. However, it shall not include spectrum and core network elements such as Switch, MSC, HLR, IN etc. The scope of the DCIP license also includes Right of Way, Duct Space, Dark Fiber, Poles, Tower, Feeder cable, Antenna, Base Station, In-Building Solution (IBS), Distributed Antenna System (DAS), etc. within any part of India.

The scope of DCIP authorization does not include provisioning of end-to-end bandwidth using transmission systems to any customer or for its own use. However, DCIP will be allowed to install wired transmission link (but not wireless) to connect to its own BBU (Baseband Unit)/RU (Radio unit)/Antenna.

- iii) Entry fee for DCIP authorization should be kept at Rs. 2 lakhs and application processing fee at Rs. 15,000. The penalty for violation be kept at the level that is prescribed for ISP Category 'B' Authorization.
- iv) To keep the authorization light touch under UL, several conditions of Part-I of Unified license have been exempted from applicability to DCIP Authorization.

Details of the recommendations may be accessed from the following link/ QR code

[https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations\\_08082023.pdf](https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_08082023.pdf)



### **TRAI released recommendations on “License Fee and Policy Matters of DTH Services” on dated 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

TRAI received reference from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting seeking recommendations on License fee and policy matters of DTH service. It has alluded to the amendments carried out by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in Unified License (UL) Agreement wherein DoT has rationalized the definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) and Bank Guarantee (BG) quantum respectively under structural reforms.

DTH operation in India is governed by the policy guidelines for obtaining license for providing DTH broadcasting services in India. These guidelines prescribe a License Fee (LF). LF is a non-tax fee levied on a service provider against the privilege of being permitted to carry out a licensed activity. As per the provisions of the guidelines, the DTH operators are required to pay a LF, which is 8% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) on a quarterly basis to MIB.

Bank Guarantee (BG) is a type of financial instrument to ensure that a service provider pay their dues on time and are obligated to fulfil the terms and conditions of the license agreement. The extant DTH guidelines prescribe a BG for an amount of Rs 5 crore for the first two quarters, and thereafter, for an amount equivalent to LF for two quarters and other dues not otherwise securitized.

Based on the reference, a consultation paper was issued on the subject and after analyzing the inputs of the stakeholders, TRAI formulated its recommendations.

The salient features of the recommendations are as follows: -

- i. DTH Licensee should pay an annual license fee equivalent to 3% of AGR.
- ii. License Fee for DTH Licensees should be brought down to zero in next three years. DTH Licensees should not be charged any License Fee after the end of the financial year 2026-2027
- iii. The recommendations explained in details regarding constituents and the calculation of Gross Revenue, Applicable Gross Revenue, Adjusted Gross revenue.

Details of the recommendations may be accessed from the following link/ QR code



[https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation\\_21082023.pdf](https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_21082023.pdf)

## Consultations

**TRAI released a Supplementary Consultation Paper on 'Data Communication Services Between Aircraft and Ground Stations Provided by Organizations Other than Airports Authority of India' on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023**

Department of Telecommunication (DoT) through its letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 stated, inter-alia, that VHF data link services consist of the data for the tracking the aircraft for safety of flights; the Ministry of communications has made frequency assignments to M/s Société Internationale de Telecommunications Aeronautiques, (SITA) and M/s Bird Consultancy Services (BCS) to operate Very High Frequency (VHF) Data Communication Link between aircraft and ground stations. Considering that VHF Data Link Services to provide Aircraft Communication Addressing and Reporting (ACAR) service can be beneficial to track aircrafts on a real-time basis and help investigations search and rescue operations in the unfortunate event of aviation disaster, DoT requested TRAI under the terms to provide recommendations on the following:

- i. An appropriate mechanism to regulate the services provided by these organizations.
- ii. The manner in which the frequency assignment should be made to these organizations, in light of the supreme Court judgment made in the 2G case in 2012 - to assign radio frequencies only through auction.

In this regard, the Authority issued a Consultation Paper on 'Data Communication Services between Aircraft and Ground Stations for services provided by organizations other than Airport Authority of India' dated 10.12.2022, for soliciting comments of stakeholders on suitable regulatory regime.

While examining the inputs received from stakeholders on the said Consultation Paper, it was

observed that specific inputs have not been received on some of the aspects related to service license for provision of data communication services between aircraft and ground stations, methodology for spectrum assignment, and spectrum charging mechanism, which will be necessary for a comprehensive analysis of the matter and formulating the recommendations. Accordingly, the Authority has decided to issue this supplementary consultation paper to seek input from stakeholders on such aspects.

The supplementary consultation paper may be accessed from the following link/ QR code

[https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_03082023.pdf](https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_03082023.pdf)



### **TRAI released Consultation Paper on “Review of Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting and Cable services” on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

In consonance with the complete digitization of the cable TV sector, TRAI on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 notified the Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting and Cable services. Hon'ble High Courts upheld the validity of the amended Framework 2020 except for a couple of provisions.

The provisions related to Network Capacity Fee (NCF), multi-TV homes and long-term subscriptions of the amended framework 2020, were implemented. However, after new tariffs were announced by the broadcasters, TRAI received representations from Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs), Associations of Local Cable Operators (LCOs) and Consumer Organizations. Stakeholders highlighted difficulties likely to be faced by them in implementing new rates in their IT systems and migrating the consumers in bulk to the new tariff regime through the informed exercise of options, impacting almost all bouquets, due to upward revision in the rates of pay channels and bouquets declared by broadcasters.

To deliberate on the various issues related to implementation of the amended framework 2020 and suggest a way forward, a committee consisting of members from Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation (IBDF), All India Digital Cable Federation (AIDCF) & DTH Association was constituted under the aegis of TRAI. The Committee listed several issues related to the amended framework 2020 for consideration. The stakeholders, however, requested TRAI to immediately address critical issues which could create impediments for smooth implementation of the amended framework 2020.

In order to address the issues as identified by the stakeholders' committee; TRAI issued the consultation paper on "Issues related to New Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting and Cable services". After due consultation process, TRAI notified the Regulations which covered the following issues:

- a) Continuance of forbearance on MRP of TV channels
- b) ceiling of Rs. 19/- on MRP of a TV Channel price for inclusion in bouquet
- c) Discount of 45% on sum of the price of individual channels while forming Bouquet
- d) Additional Incentives of 15% by broadcaster to be permitted on Bouquets also.

In order to address the remaining issues pertaining to Tariff, Interconnection and Quality of Service of Broadcasting and Cable services, as identified by the stakeholders' committee and suggested by other stakeholders, the Authority issued a consultation paper for seeking stakeholders' comments.

The consultation paper may be accessed from the following link/ QR code



[https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_08082023\\_0.pf](https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_08082023_0.pf)

**TRAI released Consultation Paper on 'Review of Quality-of-Service Standards for Access Services (Wireless and Wireline) and Broadband (Wireless and Wireline) Services' on 18<sup>th</sup> August 23**

TRAI Act, 1997 mandates the Authority to ensure the quality of Service to protect the interest of the consumers of telecommunication services. Accordingly, TRAI notified the following regulations for Quality of Service (QoS) Standards for telecom services.

- I. The Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Regulations, 2009
- II. Quality of Service of Broadband Service Regulations 2006 and
- III. The Standards of Quality of Service for Wireless Data Services Regulations 2012.

These regulations have been amended from time to time.

TRAI has been receiving a number of complaints from the subscribers regarding call drops and other network related issues especially after the rollout of 5G services. Upon detailed analysis of quarterly QoS performance reports, the Authority has noted that due to long performance assessment period of a quarter over a large area like LSA, there may be pockets or areas experiencing poor quality of service due to averaging effect while service providers are meeting overall QoS benchmark at LSA level.

Accordingly, the consultation paper proposed draft regulations in which provision is made for monthly QoS performance reporting at State and UT level in addition to at LSA level. The QoS parameters and benchmarks are updated to include relevant terminology for 5G services. As 4G and 5G networks are providing much wider coverage in the country compared to the 2G & 3G networks, stringent performance benchmarks, especially related to call drops, are proposed for 4G and 5G services to improve consumer experience.

Network availability is an important requirement for good QoS. Therefore, the performance against service provider's network availability is proposed to be monitored at State and UT level to ensure that consumer get uninterrupted services. It is proposed to have a single regulation for all voice and data services irrespective of their access medium i.e., for both wireline and wireless services.

Accordingly, the present three regulations are proposed to be merged into single regulation.

The consultation paper may be accessed from the following link/ QR code



[https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_18082023\\_0.pdf](https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_18082023_0.pdf)

**TRAI released Consultation Paper on Review of Terms and Conditions of Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS) and Captive Mobile Radio Trunking Service (CMRTS) Licenses on 29<sup>th</sup> August 23:**

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) requested TRAI to provide recommendations on the terms and conditions for issue of fresh licenses for CMRTS and PMRTS Services especially with respect to technical conditions (viz, connectivity with PSTN, internet, use of digital technology, allocation of spectrum to PMRTS, use of network slicing under 5G etc.) and financial aspects etc. TRAI was also requested to give its views on any other issues considered relevant for CMRTS and PMRTS licenses. Alongwith the said reference, DoT also enclosed the representations received from the PMRTS Licensees, their Association and CMRTS Licensee. In this regard, TRAI, through its various communications requested DoT to provide information on the subject matter. In response, DoT provided its inputs to TRAI.

In this regard, TRAI released a Consultation Paper on 'Review of Terms and Conditions of PMRTS and CMRTS Licenses'. Written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper were invited from the stakeholders by 26<sup>th</sup> Sept.2023 and counter-comments by 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023.



[https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_29082023.pdf](https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_29082023.pdf)

# Seminar

## TRAI organized Seminar on Digital Inclusion for MSME-Leveraging Emerging Technologies at New Delhi on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023

TRAI conducted a seminar on “Digital Inclusion for MSMEs- Leveraging Emerging Technologies” to deliberate upon the opportunities available to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in rapidly evolving technological landscape to improve their productivity, efficiency and compete with global market. The deliberations in the seminar also delved upon to understand the challenges being faced by the MSME sector in adoption of emerging technologies such as use-cases based on 5G and Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AIML).



The seminar was designed to bring together policy makers (Ministry of MSME & DoT), Telecom Regulator, Industry experts, business leaders, innovators, and MSME owners to explore the transformative potential of technology for (MSMEs) sector. The seminar emphasised on how emerging technologies can bridge the digital divide and unlock a world of opportunities for the MSMEs.

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. P. D. Vaghela, Chairperson-TRAI. In his keynote address he emphasised the importance of usage of emerging technologies to remain competitive in terms of product quality and prices across all segments of the industry more specific to MSME industries. The new use-cases being developed using 5G and beyond technologies supported by AI, if not adopted in time will leave many MSMEs struggling for survival. It is imperative for us specially the policy makers, MSME associations to support MSMEs in empowering them digitally to continue in business. Chairman TRAI while highlighting the gaps in respect of meaningful and affordable reliable connectivity to MSME, asked service providers and policy makers to work in collaboration to extend the benefits of Digital Infrastructure created by the Government or Private Service Providers. There is also a need to develop use cases for MSME on 5G and AIML technologies and to skill and upskill the MSME HR resources to use such technologies.

Ms. Meenakshi Gupta, Member, TRAI in her address told the importance of MSME sector particularly the Micros which are large in number, require different strategies to be adopted for digital empowerment for such MSMEs. She also stressed upon the need for transformation from Job seeker to Job provider for which becoming MSME and their digital empowerment is the stepping stone.

Mr Ateesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME highlighted various initiatives taken by the Ministry in terms of empowering MSMEs digitally. He highlighted the success of Udyam Portal and one stop access point for registration of MSMEs and availing various benefits of Government support.

In the seminar, senior officers of Ministry of MSME, Department of Telecommunications, TRAI, NTIPRIT, MSMEs, Startups, Telecom Service Providers, Academia, MSME Associations, Consumer Advocacy Groups etc. participated. Mr Singh mentioned collaborative approach of MSME with DoT in organising hackathon involving young professional and also expressed MSME ministry commitment to work with TRAI and DoT further for ensuring that MSME sector contributes to economy increases manifold.

Sh. Rajneesh Goyanka, Chairman-MSME development Forum lauded the initiatives of TRAI and assured Chairman-TRAI to work with TRAI and DoT to extend the benefits of new technologies to entrepreneurs. Seminar was also attended by Sh. Sanjay Gupta, Sh. Kailash, Dr Sanjeev Layek, Sh. Deepak Sharma, representatives of WASME, MSME Development Forum and Laghu Udyog Bharti.

In the deliberations, insights to MSMEs have been provided on Leveraging Emerging Technologies for MSMEs, case studies and use cases on implementation of emerging technologies, harnessing of cloud computing, Innovation in IoT and their applications for MSMEs by Sh Umang Jindal (Ericsson), Sh.Vishal Agnihotri (Nokia), Dr Riddhi (IIT Kanpur), Further, the seminar sessions have also covered 'Future of Telecom for MSMEs' by Sh.Ashok Kumar (NTIPRIT), Sh.Manoj Misra(Airtel), Sh.Pradeep Naik (Tata Communications Ltd.), Sh. Rajeev Mehta (Vodafone Idea).

The seminar also covered important topics for MSMEs such as strategies for staying competitive and seizing emerging opportunities by Sh. Anand Rajagopalan (T-Works), the empowering women micro-entrepreneurs by Sh. Gagandeep Manchanda (GSMA).

In order to help MSMEs in their marketing of products and services digitally, a session on Digital Marketing Strategies for MSMEs has been held. The MSMEs were enlightened by Sh. Utkarsh Goswamy (ONDC) on the concept of Open Network Digital Platform and Data driven marketing by Ms Aashita Agarwal (Amazon).

In order to protect MSMEs from cyber threats a session on Cybersecurity held in which Sh. S.K. Bhalla (NTIPRIT), Dr Shweta Sankhwar (Maitreyi College, DU), Sh. Khushhal Kaushik (Lisianthus Tech) informed various cyber threats and protective measures for MSMEs.

# Events

**Dr. PD Vaghela, Chairman-TRAI bilateral meeting with Mohamed Fazeen, Vice President, Maldives Broadcasting Commission (Broadcom), Maldives visited TRAI on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023**



**Dr. P. D. Vaghela Chairperson TRAI addressed the Telecom Industry Leaders in Digital Telco Summit-2023, jointly organized by the TRAI Centre of Studies & Research and ET Telecom at ITC Maurya, New Delhi on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023.**



**“Hypertension” and “Cancer Awareness” was organized at TRAI Headquarters, New Delhi on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023**



## Open House Discussion

**An Open House Discussion (OHD) on Consultation Paper on “Regulating Converged Digital Technologies and Services - Enabling Convergence of Carriage of Broadcasting and Telecommunication services” on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023**



**An Open House Discussion (OHD) held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 on Consultation Paper on “Definition of International Traffic”.**



## Telecom Subscriptions

**Telecom Subscription Data as on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023:**

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Million)	628.55	27.92	656.47
Rural Telephone subscribers (Million)	517.69	2.69	520.38
<b>Total Telephone subscribers (Million)</b>	<b>1146.25</b>	<b>30.61</b>	<b>1176.85</b>
Overall Tele-density (%)	82.38	2.20	84.58
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.84	91.22	55.78
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.16	8.78	44.22
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	832.50	35.70	868.20

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in July 2023 were 1046.41 million.

In July 2023, 11.77 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of July 2023, a total of 864.76 million consumers availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

## Miscellaneous

### Updated list of Panel of Auditors:

TRAI released the updated list of panel of Auditors to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) on 24th August 2023, vide which extension up to 29.08.2025 was given to five Auditors. Another updated list of panel of Auditors was released on 31st August 2023, vide which three Auditors were removed from the list due to the completion of empanelment period. The total number of auditors empanelled by TRAI to carry out the audit of DAS as on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 are 50.

## Consumer Outreach Programmes

TRAI conducted Consumer Outreach Programmes (CoP) for different sections of the society as under:

S. No.	Place	Date
1	Fingeshwar (Chhattisgarh)	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023
2	Chota Udaipur (Gujarat)	11 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
3	Alipurduar (West Bengal)	13 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
4	Khammam (Telangana)	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
5	Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
6	Mandla (Madhya Pradesh)	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023
7	Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh)	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
8	Karnal (Haryana)	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
9	Vodlemol Cacora (Goa)	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023

## PHOTO GALLERY



**Consumer Outreach Program at Fingeshwar (Chhattisgarh) was held on 3<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Regional Office, Bhopal**



**Special Consumer Outreach Program (COP) for a group of rehabilitated women displaced in Sukhi Dam at Modsar Taluka Bodeli Distt. Chota Udepur, Gujarat on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Regional Office, Jaipur**



**Consumer Outreach Program at Alipurduar (West Bengal) held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Regional Office, Kolkata**



**Consumer Outreach Program at Khammam (Telangana) held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Regional Office, Hyderabad**



**Consumer Outreach Program at Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Regional Office, Bengaluru**



**Consumer Outreach Program at Mandla (Madhya Pradesh) held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 by Regional Office, Bhopal**



**Consumer Outreach Program at Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh) held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Regional Office, Hyderabad**



**Consumer Outreach Program at Karnal (Haryana) was held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Regional Office, Jaipur**



**Consumer Outreach Program at Vodlemol Cacora (Goa) held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 by  
Regional Office, Bengaluru**

*Full details of the Directions/Orders/Consultation Paper/Report, Subscription Data, etc mentioned in this newsletter are available on TRAI [website](http://www.trai.gov.in)*

*[www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in)  
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg,  
(Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.*

*We are also on Facebook! Join us!*



<https://www.facebook.com/TRAI/>

*We are also on Twitter! Follow us!*

