

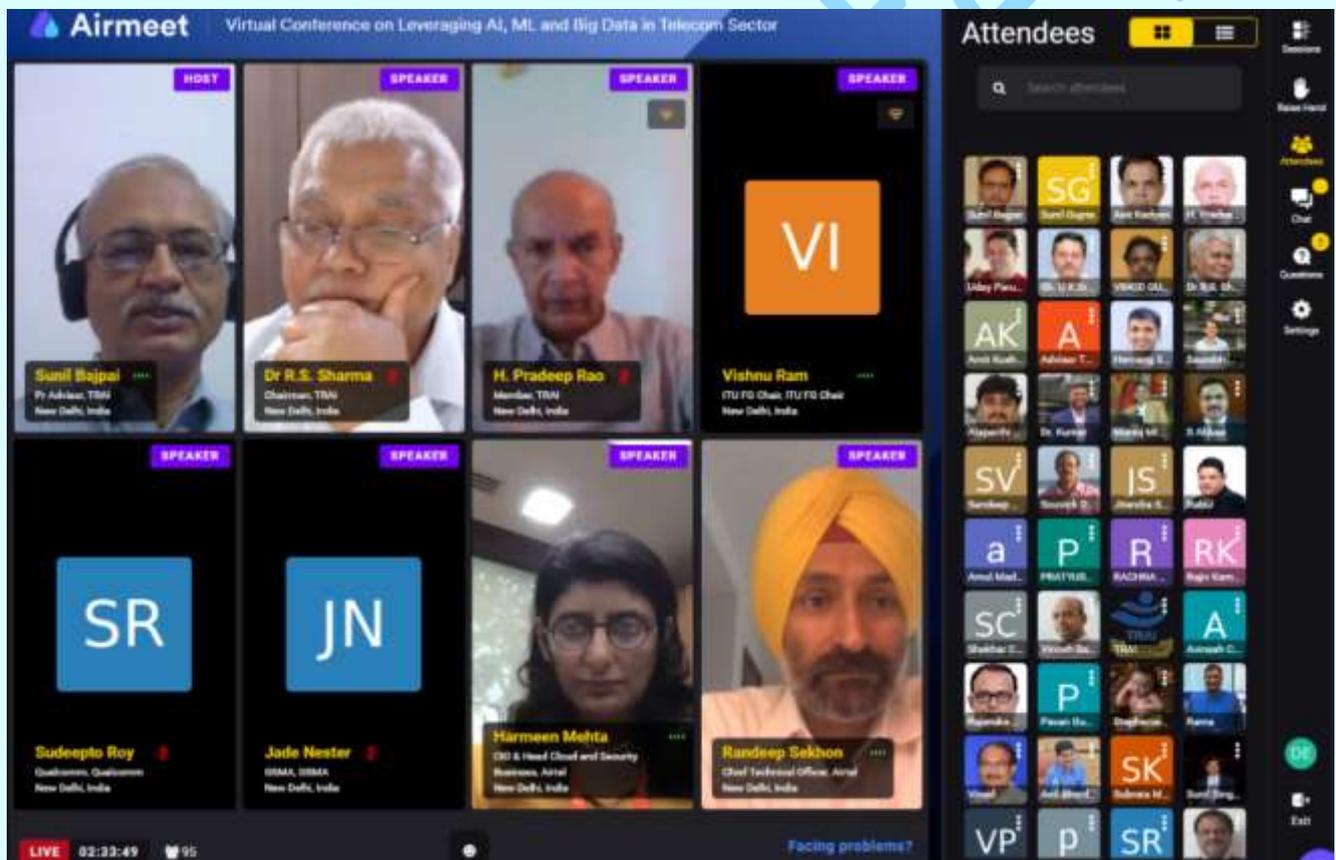
TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2020



Virtual Conference on Leveraging Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Big Data in Telecom Sector on 5th and 6th August 2020 with leading global experts and Telecom Service Providers

1. Recommendations

1.1 Recommendations on Methodology of applying Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) under the weighted average method of SUC assessment, in cases of Spectrum Sharing dated 17th August, 2020

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) through its letter dated 15th January 2020, inter alia, informed that the existing guidelines for Sharing of Access Spectrum by Access Service Providers issued by DoT on 24th September 2015 provide that the Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC) rate of each of the licensees post sharing increases by 0.5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). DoT also informed that it has received representations requesting that the incremental SUC rate of 0.5% post sharing should be applied only to the particular spectrum band which has been allowed to be shared between two licensees, and not on the entire spectrum held by the licensees; since sharing is permitted in a particular band. In this background, DoT requested TRAI to furnish its recommendations on (i) whether the incremental 0.5% in SUC rate in cases of sharing of spectrum should be applied only on the specific band in which sharing is taking place; or on the overall Weighted Average Rate of SUC, which has been derived from all bands and (ii) any other recommendations deemed fit for the purpose, under the TRAI Act, 1997, as amended.

2. In this regard, a Consultation Paper on “Methodology of applying Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) under the weighted average method of SUC assessment, in cases of Spectrum Sharing” was released on 22nd April 2020 providing the background information and seeking inputs of the stakeholders. Comments from nine stakeholders were received. An Open House Discussion (OHD) was conducted through video conference on 9th July 2020.

3. Based on the comments/inputs received from the stakeholders and on its own analysis, on 17th August 2020, TRAI finalized its Recommendations on ‘**Methodology of applying Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) under the weighted average method of SUC assessment, in cases of Spectrum Sharing**’ and sent to the Government. The salient features of the Recommendations are:

- (i) It is clarified that as per the existing spectrum-sharing guidelines, an increment of 0.5% on SUC rate should apply on the spectrum holding in specific band in which sharing is taking place, and not on the entire spectrum holding (all bands) of the Licensee.
- (ii) To provide flexibility to the TSPs to manage their spectrum on need and commercial basis, suitable exit clause for intimation of termination of an existing spectrum-sharing arrangement by the involved TSPs should be included in the spectrum sharing guidelines.



2. Consultation Paper

2.1 Consultation Paper on ‘Enabling Unbundling of Different Layers Through Differential Licensing’ dated 20th August 2020

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) through its letter dated 8th May 2019, inter alia, informed that the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018, under its ‘Propel India’ mission, envisages one of the strategies as ‘Reforming the licensing and regulatory regime to catalyse Investments and Innovation and promote Ease of Doing Business’. Enabling unbundling of different layers (e.g., infrastructure, network, services, and application layer) through differential licensing is one of the action plans for fulfilling the afore mentioned strategy. Through the said letter dated 8th May 2019, DoT, inter alia, requested TRAI to furnish recommendations on enabling unbundling of different layers through differential licensing, under the terms of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, as amended.

2. Earlier, TRAI had sought inputs from stakeholders on the broad framework for unbundling of license through a Pre-consultation paper on "Enabling Unbundling of Different Layers Through Differential Licensing" dated 9th December 2019.

3. Based on the inputs received from the stakeholders on the Pre-Consultation Paper, international practices and internal analysis, a Consultation Paper on “**Enabling Unbundling of Different Layers Through Differential Licensing**” was released on 20th August 2020.



https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Consultation_Paper_20082020.pdf

2.2 The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued the Consultation Paper on “Roadmap to Promote Broadband Connectivity and Enhanced Broadband speed” on 20th August, 2020

Increasing reliable and high-speed broadband connectivity in the country has been in focus of the Government and the Authority since 2004. Number of policy and regulatory initiatives has been taken in the past to reach the present state. Constant developments happening in the field of ICTs are putting continuous pressure on the Government, the Authority, and the TSPs to further improve the penetration and performance of broadband networks. Efforts are continuing to meet the ever-growing demand and expectations of consumers. Many strategies have been identified in the NDCCP-2018 to improve the penetration and performance of broadband networks. Such strategies need to be converted into actionable points.

2. Further, the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has requested the Authority to furnish its recommendations as per Section 11(1)(a) of TRAI Act 1997, as amended, on the following points:

- (a) *“Different speeds for different categories i.e. fixed vs Mobile with upload/download speeds defined;*
- (b) *How different categories of broadband speeds such as basic broadband, high broadband & Ultra-High Broadband etc. can be defined as in Europe; and*
- (c) *The roadmap to enhance Broadband speed to achieve the NDCP-2018 objective of 50 Mbps.”*

3. DoT, through two other separate references has sought the recommendations of the Authority for implementing NDCP-2018 strategies *“By encouraging innovative approaches to infrastructure creation and access including through resale and Virtual Network Operators (VNO)”* and *“Promoting broadband connectivity through innovative and alternative technologies”*, respectively. Both strategies are part of the mission *“Connect India: Creating a Robust Digital Communication Infrastructure”*.

4. With this background, the Authority, through this Consultation Paper intends to seek the inputs of stakeholders on (i) defining fixed and mobile broadband, (ii) innovative approaches for infrastructure creation, (iii) promoting broadband connectivity, and (iv) measures to be taken for enhancing broadband speed.



https://tra.gov.in/sites/default/files/Broadband_CP_20082020.pdf

3. Directions

3.1 TRAI has issued an Amendment to Direction dated 24.07.2020 issued to all Broadcasters under Section 13, read with section 11, of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 on 18th August 2020

Vide the above said Amendment, the Authority, in exercise of its power under section 13 of TRAI Act notifies that the direction dated 24.07.2020, stands modified to the extent that the date of 10.08.2020, as prescribed in the direction dated 24.07.2020, shall stand substituted by 26.08.2020.



https://tra.gov.in/sites/default/files/Direction_18082020.pdf

3.2 TRAI issued Direction dated 27th August 2020 for minimum threshold of rupees ten to be applicable for generating unique porting code, raising of Non-Payment Disconnection requests and reconnection of mobile numbers

The Authority, while reviewing the status of implementation of seventh amendment regulations noted that non-payment disconnection requests are being raised for recovery of nominal outstanding payments e.g. ₹ 0.8 or ₹ 0.5 etc. thereby causing inconvenience to subscribers and other stakeholders for such miniscule amount. In this regard the Authority also received representation from COAI supported by Telecom Service providers not raise such NPD requests by the Donor Operator where outstanding amount payable by the ported subscriber is rupees ten or less, and also send a positive response to the MNPSP when the reconnection requests are raised by the Recipient Operator where the outstanding amount due is rupees ten or less than rupees ten. The Authority, therefore to align previous direction to the provisions of seventh amendment the directed on 27th August 2020 issued to all the Access Service Providers as Donor Operator that:--

- (a) in response to the query relating to the outstanding dues, made by the MNPSP, clearance should be granted for generating UPC if the outstanding payments due from the postpaid subscriber in the previous paid bill is rupees ten or less than rupees ten, which the service provider may include in the subsequent bill of the subscriber without any penal charges;
- (b) NPD requests should not be raised for the mobile number if the outstanding amount due from the ported subscriber is rupees ten or less than rupees ten without any penal charges;
- (c) the response of Donor Operator to the reconnection request received from MNPSP on being raised by the Recipient Operator should be '*No Dues Pending*', if the outstanding amount due from the subscriber is rupees ten or less than rupees ten;
- (d) when query relating to the subsisting contractual obligations is made by MNPSP for generating UPC, clearance should be granted for generating UPC, except in the case of –
 - (i) the postpaid connections with bundled handset with contractual obligation having exit clause and the subscriber has not complied with the same; and
 - (ii) corporate connection with contractual obligation having an exit clause and the subscriber has not complied with the same.

https://tra.gov.in/sites/default/files/Direction_27082020.pdf



4. Open House Discussion

5.2 OHD on Consultation on Regulation of International Mobile Roaming Services held on 27.08.2020

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 27.08.2020 through Video Conferencing on 'Regulation of International Mobile Roaming Services'.



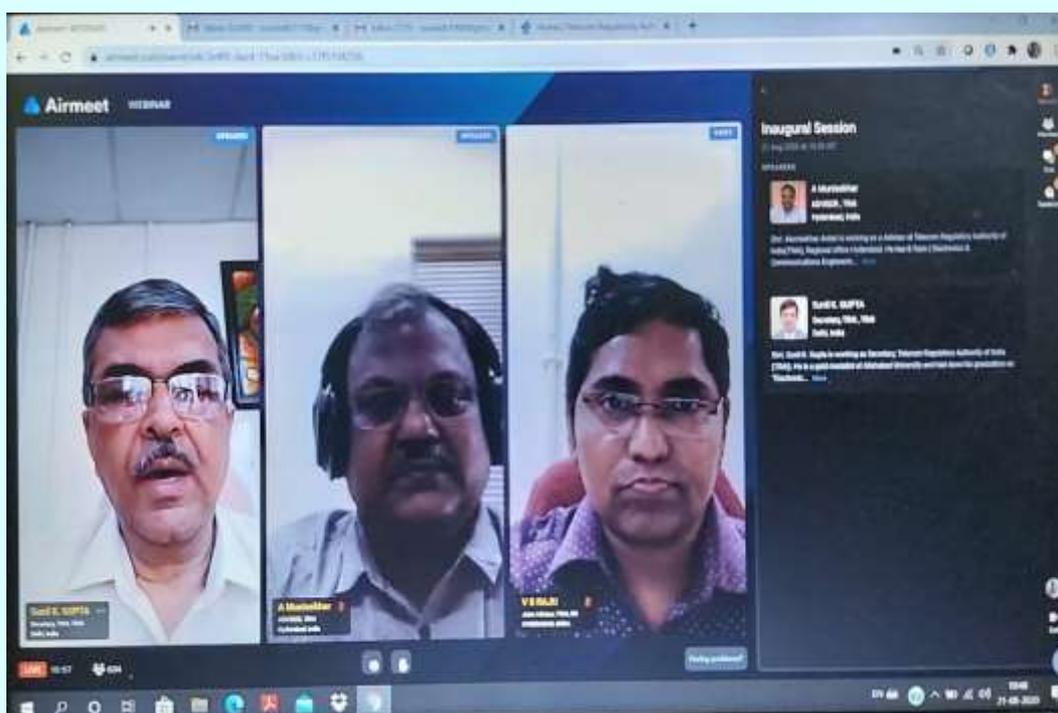
5. Seminar

5.1 TRAI conducted webinar on "5G Architecture, Use Cases and Govt. Initiatives" held on 21.08.2020

TRAI organized a webinar through online on "5G Technology- Architecture, Use Cases & Govt. Initiatives" using Airmeeet Platform on 21st August 2020.

The webinar was inaugurated by Sh. S. K. Gupta, Secretary, TRAI. In his inaugural address he explained that the purpose of conducting this kind of event is to educate and highlight key aspects on telecom issues in a manner which can be easily understood by consumers and also to sensitise them to protect themselves from various threats.

The webinar was attended by faculty members and students from various Engineering colleges i.e. Osmania University Hyderabad, SV University Tirupati, KL University Guntur, CBIT Hyderabad, VNR VJIT Hyderabad, BVRIT Hyderabad, SIET Amalapuram, Government functionaries of DoT, TERM, NTIPRIT, BBNL & Telangana State, Industry organizations, Consumer Advocacy Groups (CAGs), Telecom Service Providers and consumers attended the webinar. The programme invited large participation, particularly the young students, who have benefitted from the engaging discussion /interaction during the event.



5.2 TRAI conducted Webinar through video conferencing on “IoT (Internet of Things) Trends, Security Challenges, and Solutions “ on 28th August 2020

TRAI organized a webinar through online on “IoT (Internet of Things) Trends, Security Challenges, and Solutions “ on 28th August 2020. This webinar will prove to be a good opportunity for learning, interaction, exchange of ideas and views and will be an enriching experience for every participant.

This webinar was inaugurated by Dr. Rajat Moona, Director IIT Bhilai. In his inaugural address, he threw light on IoT around the world and in India. He mentioned that billions of connected devices and seamless machine to machine communication going to change the future technology landscape in India. Sh. Sanjeev Banzal, Advisor, TRAI, New Delhi was Special Guest on the occasion, he spoke on the importance of IoT devices and M2M connectivity through telecom network.

The target audience comprising of senior official from Telecom Service Providers, Infrastructure providers, representatives of various industry associations, Consumer Advocacy Group, Faculty members, research scholars and students from various Engineering and Management institutes, Senior Officers from Union and State Government and consumers etc.



6. Other Information

6.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 30th June 2020.

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless + Wireline)
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	619.11	17.72	636.83
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	521.60	2.09	523.69
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	1140.71	19.81	1160.52
Overall Tele-density (%)	84.38	1.47	85.85
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.27%	89.46%	54.87%
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.73%	10.54%	45.13%
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	678.41	19.82	698.23

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in June, 2020 were 958 million.

In the month of June, 2020, 5.83 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. Till the end of June,2020, a total of 497.04 million consumers have availed MNP facility since its implementation.

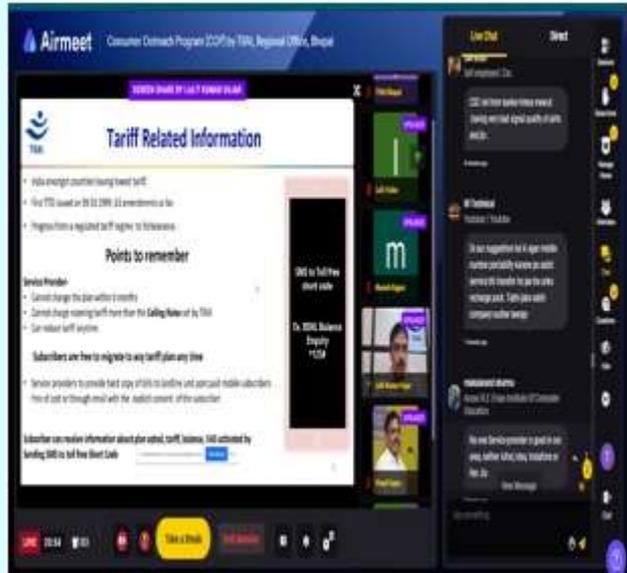
- 6.2 TRAI Organise a Virtual Conference on Leveraging AI, ML and Big Data in Telecom Sector on 5th to 6th August 2020. Speakers from Telecom Service Providers, GSMA, solution providers, leading equipment vendors from across the world, provided information related to the subject matter
- 6.3 TRAI has issued an updated list of Panel of Auditors to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) on 27th August 2020

7. Events

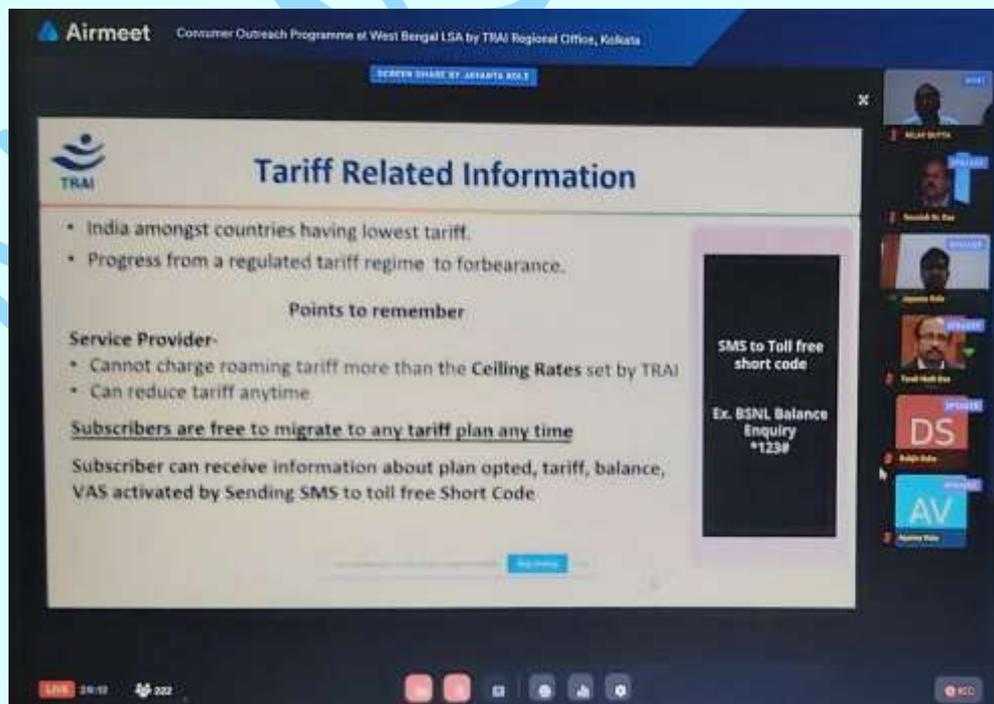
- 7.1 **The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised during the month of August 2020 through online platform**

S.No.	Place	Date
1	Uttar Pradesh	06.08.2020
2	Gujarat	07.08.2020
3	West Bengal	19.08.2020

PHOTO GALLERY



CoP at Gujarat held on 07.08.2020



CoP at West Bengal held on 19.08.2020



Farewell to Dr. R.S. Sharma, Chairman and Sh H. Pradeep Rao, Member on 30.09.2020 on account of their completion of tenure in TRAI

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 MahanagarDoorsancharBhawan, JawaharLal Nehru Marg, (Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.

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