



TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-NEWSLETTER FOR TRAI REGISTERED CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS FOR JULY, 2018



Chairman TRAI in a panel discussion on GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT at Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum'18, London



Chairman, TRAI and Mr Johannes Gungl Chair, BEREC (Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications) signed an MoU at Sopot, Poland. Under the framework of this MoU, both BEREC and TRAI advocated for effective electronic communications



1. Recommendations

1.1 Recommendations on "Next Generation Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication networks" on 4th June, 2018

Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication supports a wide range of services related to day to day life of public such as maintenance of law and order, protection of life and property, disaster relief and emergency responses.

The advancement of technology has provided PPDR networks with latest and enhanced features in terms of capability, capacity and interoperability. Broadband PPDR supports wide range of applications such as sending live images, videos and texts apart from the voice communication. Existing PPDR networks in the country are analog and digital systems supporting narrowband voice and data communications. Introduction of advanced broadband PPDR communication networks can be a great enabler in decision making and handling of PPDR operations for personnel and organizations involved.

Keeping in view the need to have a robust policy framework for the introduction of an advanced, reliable, robust and responsive broadband PPDR communication system in the country, TRAI had *suo-motu* on 9th October, 2017 issued a Consultation Paper (CP) on 'Next Generation Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication networks' for the comments of the stakeholders.

TRAI has formulated its recommendations based on inputs received from the stakeholders, views expressed during the OHD and its own internal analysis and sent it the Government on 4th June 2018. The salient features of the recommendations are:

- (a) Government to set up pan-India integrated Broadband PPDR (BB-PPDR) Communication Network (to be called "National BB-PPDR Network") based on 3GPP PS-LTE technology.
- (b) A hybrid model of BB-PPDR network in India should be put in place in which dedicated network for BB-PPDR communication funded by government be created in metro cities, border districts, disaster prone areas (identified by NDMA) and sensitive areas like J&K and North East by PSU like BSNL/MTNL and existing commercial network can be leveraged in other regions through any TSP.
- (c) Stringent SLAs to be put in place and operators should be mandated to provide mobile BTS and backpack devices in case of disaster when terrestrial network gets destroyed in order to make available communication facilities for PPDR agencies.

- (d) Setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to plan, coordinate and steer the nationwide BB-PPDR communication network implementation and its subsequent operation.
- (e) An advisory committee should be constituted that includes representatives from all disciplines of public safety, state government, central government and Ministry of Communications to provide domain specific advice to the SPV.
- (f) DoT should study the feasibility to do away with CMRTS license for PPDR agencies in a phased manner.
- (g) SPV shall be the nodal agency to coordinate with DoT for allocation of spectrum and other issues. The PPDR agencies and details of equipment deployed by them can be registered with DoT through SPV.
- (h) DoT should work out timelines to phase out existing analog networks in PPDR in a phased manner. New spectrum assignments may be done only for deploying digital equipment.
- (i) Carrying out pilot testing of BB-PPDR dedicated network (dedicated spectrum and network) to be implemented through BSNL/MTNL, funded by the central government, at five zones identified as disaster prone/sensitive areas to evaluate the efficacy of the proposed network.
- (j) Testing the efficacy of PPDR trunking service roaming on public telecom networks during pilot testing, and if found feasible, it should be implemented on pan-India basis.
- (k) 2x10 MHz of dedicated spectrum should be allocated nationwide to the SPV on no-cost basis for LTE based broadband PPDR networks.
- (l) 814-824/859-869 MHz should be assigned for nationwide BB-PPDR services as per APT Frequency Arrangement number G 3-1-4.
- (m) 20 MHz of spectrum in the frequency range 440-470 MHz (preferably 450-470 MHz) should be allocated for future evolution of broadband PPDR.

1.2 TRAI's Response dated 05.06.2018 to DoT's back-reference on Recommendations on 'In-Flight Connectivity dated 18.01.2018'

DoT through their letter dated 15.05.2018 referred back some of the TRAI Recommendations on 'In-Flight Connectivity' dated 18.01.2018 for re-examination / reconsideration.

After examining the comments of DoT, TRAI sent its response to DoT on 05.06.2018.

1.3 Recommendations on “Issues relating to Uplinking and Downlinking of Television Channels in India”

On **25th June 2018**, TRAI released Recommendations on “Issues relating to Uplinking and Downlinking of Television Channels in India”. The salient features of the recommendations are:

A. Issues related to uplinking and downlinking of satellite TV channels

- i)** No change in the existing definitions of ‘News and Current Affairs TV channels’, and ‘Non-News and Current Affairs TV channels’ mentioned in the existing uplinking and downlinking guidelines dated 05.12.2011.
- ii)** No change in the amount of minimum net-worth of an applicant company seeking permissions for uplinking and downlinking of TV channels.
- iii)** Auction not feasible for grant of permissions for uplinking and downlinking of TV channels.
- iv)** Existing administrative system for grant of permissions for uplinking and downlinking of TV channels should be continued and should be streamlined.
- v)** TRAI reiterated its recommendations on “Ease of Doing Business in Broadcasting Sector” dated 26th February 2018 sent to the Government wherein several measures have been recommended for streamlining the existing process of granting permissions for uplinking and downlinking of TV channels.
- vi)** No change in the Permission fee and Entry fee for uplinking and downlinking permissions.
- vii)** Annual License fee for uplinking and downlinking permissions should be enhanced as follows:

Permission	Annual Permission Fee
Uplinking of TV Channel from Indian Soil	Rs. 3 lakh per annum
Downlinking of TV Channel uplinked from Indian soil	Rs. 7.5 Lakh per annum
Downlinking of TV Channel uplinked from Foreign Soil	Rs. 22.5 Lakh per annum

- viii)** Encryption of broadcast of FTA channels should not be mandated and it should be left to the broadcasters providing FTA channels.
- ix)** Transfer of permissions should not be permitted between two different companies. In case of merger and acquisition as recognised under the Companies Act, 2013 or any other applicable law(s), transfer of permissions should be permitted after following the due process. Transfer of permission of TV channels to its subsidiary company or holding company or subsidiary company of the holding company should be allowed freely, provided such company has a valid uplinking and downlinking permission.
- x)** A lock-in period of one year from the date of operationalisation of a channel for the transfer of permission of such channel.

B. Issues related to Teleports

- i)** No change in the amount of onetime non-refundable processing fee levied for seeking permission for establishing a teleport.
- ii)** No Entry fee for granting permission for establishing teleport.
- iii)** For each antenna, a fixed annual license fee of Rs 3 lakh should be charged.
- iv)** No need to restrict the number of teleports in India.
- v)** Location of teleports should be left to the teleport operators subject to site clearance from WPC wing of DoT.

2. Workshop/Conference

2.1 Workshop on Implementation Strategy for 'Interoperable Wi-Fi Hotspot Architecture for Digital India' on 07.06.2018 at Begaluru.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) organized a workshop on 'Implementation Strategy for Interoperable Wi-Fi Hotspot Architecture for Digital India' at Bengaluru on 07.06.2018. The workshop was graced by Sh. Manoj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications (Independent Charge) and other dignitaries from Telecom sector.

2. The event saw huge participation from the Telecom and IT space who shared their views on proliferation of Wi-Fi Hotspots in India. The attendees deliberated the issues which would promote the large scale deployment of Wi-Fi hotspots in the country. The Workshop ended with a resolve to establish a people a strong interoperable Wi-Fi hotspots architecture in India so that common people can have affordable access to broadband and reap the benefits of technology.



2.2 Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of CAGs and Consumer Education at Joshimath, Uttarakhand on 07.06.2018

TRAI organized a 'Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of Consumer Advocacy Groups (CAGs) and consumer Education' of Northern region at Joshimath on 07.06.2018. The workshop was presided over by Secretary, TRAI and was attended by CAGs from UP, J&K and HP, senior officers from all the telecom service providers, representatives from local administration, educational institutions, local bodies/association and banks etc.

During the workshop, discussions were held amongst CAGs, TSPs and TRAI about the various activities/steps being undertaken by CAGs and TSPs to enhance consumer education and awareness, redressal of consumer grievances, organisation of consumer workshops and other consumer centric measures. The workshop also included a knowledge sharing session for CAGs and others on following two topics:

- (i) Smartphone Usage in Internet Era** – The session was taken by the Secretary, TRAI.
- (ii) Digital India Programe** – Sh. Tushar Rai, Sr. Consultant, NeGD, Ministry of Electronics and IT (MEITY) was the speaker for the session.



3. Open House Discussions

3.1 Open House Discussion held on 11.06.2018 at New Delhi on the Consultation Paper on 'Review of Mobile Number Portability (MNP) Process'



4. Other Information

4.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31.05.2018.

Particulars	No. of Wireless subscribers (in Millions)	No. of Wire-line Subscribers (in Millions)	No. of Total subscribers (Wireless + Wire-line) (in Millions)
Urban Subscription	625.66	19.24	644.90
Rural Subscription	505.34	3.27	508.61
Total Subscription	1131.01	22.51	1153.52
Overall Tele-density	86.89	1.73	88.62
Share of Urban Subscription	55.32%	85.49%	55.91%
Share of Rural Subscription	44.68%	14.51%	44.09%
No. of Broadband Subscribers	414.06	17.94	432.00

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in May, 2018 were 983.94 million.

In the month of May, 2018, 4.51 million requests were made for MNP. Till the end of May 18, a total of 382.06 million consumers have availed MNP facility since its implementation.

4.2 Performance Indicator Report :

TRAI released 'Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report' for the quarter ending 31.03.2018. This report provides a broad perspective of the telecom services in India and presents the key parameters and growth trends of the telecom services as well as Cable TV, DTH & Radio Broadcasting services in India for the period covering 01.01.2018 to 31.03.2018.

4.3 Conducting of Drive tests to assess Network quality

TRAI has extended the contract for conducting Independent Drive Tests through M/s Phimetrics Technologies for one more year.

TRAI has been regularly conducting the Independent Drive Tests (IDTs) through its appointed agency in cities, Highways and rail routes. TRAI conducted Independent Drive Testes (IDT) in Delhi License service area including Ghaziabad, Noida, Gurugram and Faridabad. Tests were conducted from 20.02.2018 to 16.03.2018, to assess the network quality provided by cellular mobile telephone service providers. KPIs for services were Coverage; Call Setup Success Rate; Drop Call Rate; Block Call Rate, Handover Success Rate; Rx Quality.

5. Consumer Outreach Programmes

Consumer Outreach Programmes

1	Almora (Uttarakhand)	14.06.2018
2	Nandurbar (Maharashtra)	14.06.2018
3	Dhule (Maharashtra)	15.06.2018
4	NUH, Mewat (Haryana)	21.06.2018
5	Bardhaman (West Bengal)	21.06.2018
6	Madhupur (Jharkhand)	21.06.2018
7	Jagatsinghpur (Odisha)	28.06.2018
8	Dalhousie (Himachal Pradesh)	29.06.2018

PHOTO GALLERY



CoP at Almora (Uttarakhand) held on 14.06.2018



CoP at Nandurbar (Maharashtra) held on 14.06.2018



CoP at Dhule (Maharashtra) held on 15.06.2018



CoP at NUH, Mewat (Haryana) held on 21.06.2018



CoP at Bardhaman (West Bengal) held on 21.06.2018



CoP at Madhupur (Jharkhand) held on 21.06.2018



CoP at Jagatsinghpur (Odisha) held on 28.06.2018




CoP at Dalhousie (Himachal Pradesh) held on 29.06.2018

***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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