

# TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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## DECEMBER 2021

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**Online presentation by CSC E-Governance Services India Limited to TRAI on  
“Working of CSC in the context of Digital Literacy and Digital inclusion” on  
12<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

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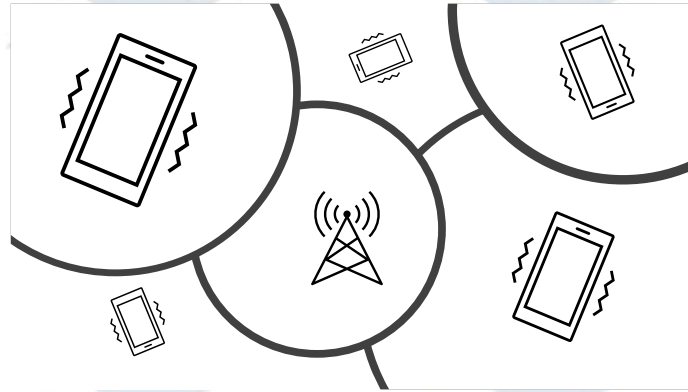
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# 1. Consultation Papers

## 1.1 TRAI released Consultation Paper on "Tariff related issues to SMS and Cell Broadcast alerts disseminated through Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) platform during disasters/non-disasters"



Department of Telecom has requested TRAI to provide tariff for SMS and Cell Broadcast alerts/messages to be disseminated by TSPs through the CAP platform during disasters/ non-disasters. DoT allows SMS/ Cell Broadcast free of cost only for a definite period and for events where a specific request for free of cost messages comes from NEC/ NCMC/ SEC/ Nodal Authorities. However, there are occasions when the Government would like to send alert messages to the public forewarning of a possible disaster or occasions where the public has to be informed of special events such as holding of relief/ vaccine/ medical camps/ specific law and order related situations, etc.

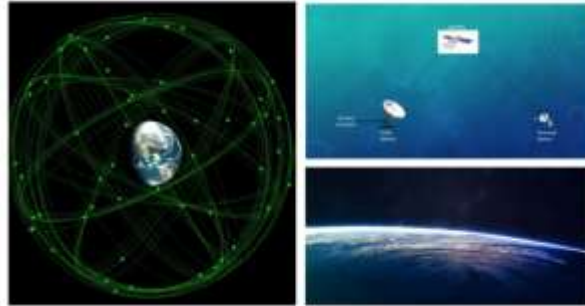
The purpose of this consultation paper is to elicit stakeholders' views on the tariff for SMS/Cell Broadcast disseminated by TSPs through the CAP platform during disasters/ non-disasters and to understand the technical aspects that might have an impact on the costing of the service.

As part of the consultative process, the Consultation Paper has been released on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 to the TRAI website. For more details, please visit the following link

[https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_03112021.pdf](https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/CP_03112021.pdf)



## 1.2 Consultation Paper on “Licensing Framework for Establishing Satellite Earth Station Gateway” on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), through its letter, dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021, has requested TRAI to furnish recommendations on “Licensing Framework for Establishing Satellite Gateway”.

DoT has stated that the current licensing framework of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) with respect to satellite services has limitations with respect to proposed satellite gateway(s) operations, as there are no provisions regarding usage of the gateway by a service provider established by a satellite constellation operator. Considering the constraints of the existing provisions in respect of proposed satellite gateway(s) operations, DoT has also stated that there is a need for a suitable licensing framework and requested TRAI to examine all the factors holistically and recommendation on licensing framework for satellite gateway(s) operations may be suggested including the entry fee, license fee, bank guarantee, NOCC charges, and any other issue(s) which may be relevant for LEO/MEO/HTS systems.

In this regard, a Consultation Paper on “Licensing Framework for Establishing Satellite Earth Station Gateway” was released on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 seeking inputs from the stakeholders. Written comments on the Consultation Paper had invited from the stakeholders by 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and counter-comments by 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The consultation paper is available on TRAI’s official website [www.traai.gov.in](http://www.traai.gov.in).

[https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_15112021.pdf](https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_15112021.pdf)



### **1.3 TRAI released draft Telecommunication Tariff for USSD-based tariff**

TRAI released draft Telecommunication Tariff (66<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Order, 2021 on "Regulatory framework for USSD-based tariff" on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021

TRAI had earlier issued the Telecommunication Tariff (56<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Order dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013 prescribing a ceiling tariff of Rs. 1.50 per USSD session for USSD-based mobile banking service. Subsequently, in November 2016, the Authority revised the USSD-based tariff ceiling for banking and payment services through the Telecommunication Tariff (61<sup>st</sup> Amendment) Order, 2016 from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 0.50 per session.

With a view to encouraging digitalization of payments and enhancing financial inclusion through digitalization, the Reserve Bank of India constituted a High-Level Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments (CDDP), which suggested further rationalization of USSD charges to enable better adoption. The recommendations made by the High-Level Committee on CDDP are supported by the Department of Financial Services (DFS).

Pursuant to a request from the DFS to the Department of Telecommunications in this regard, the Authority analyzed the issue from various aspects and is of the view that to protect the interests of the USSD users and to promote digital financial inclusion, rationalization of USSD charges is required. Accordingly, the Authority proposes to revise the framework for USSD based mobile banking and payment services by prescribing a "Nil" charge per USSD session for mobile banking and payment service, while keeping the remaining items of USSD unchanged.

The draft Amendment Order has been placed on TRAI's website ([www.traigov.in](http://www.traigov.in)).



[https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Draft\\_Regulations\\_24112021.pdf](https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Draft_Regulations_24112021.pdf)

### **1.4 Consultation Paper on "Auction of spectrum in the frequencies identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) / 5G" on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), through its letter, dated 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021, requested TRAI to provide recommendations on "Auction of spectrum in the frequencies identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) / 5G". Subsequently, DoT through its letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 informed about the Government's telecom reform decisions with regard to future spectrum auctions and requested TRAI to consider/factor in

the same while providing recommendations. Accordingly, DoT has, inter-alia, requested TRAI to provide recommendations on the following issues:

- a) Applicable reserve price, band plan, block size, the quantum of spectrum to be auctioned, and associated conditions for auction of spectrum in 526-698 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 3300-3670 MHz and 24.25 – 28.5 GHz bands for IMT/5G.
- b) Quantum of spectrum/band, if any, to be earmarked for private captive/isolated 5G networks, competitive/transparent method of allocation, and pricing, for meeting the spectrum requirements if captive 5G applications of industries for machine/plant automation purposes/M2M in premises.
- c) Associated conditions like upfront payments, applicable moratorium period after upfront payments, number of deferred payment installments, and other related modalities for auction of the spectrum with validity for 30 years.
- d) For creating provisions for the surrender of the spectrum, conditions, and fees for such surrender of the spectrum.
- e) Any other recommendations deemed fit for the purpose of spectrum auction in these frequency bands, including the regulatory/technical requirements as enunciated in the relevant provisions of the latest ITU-R Radio Regulations.

In this regard, TRAI has released a **Consultation Paper on “Auction of spectrum in the frequencies identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) / 5G”** on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 seeking inputs from the stakeholders. In this consultation paper, specific issues have been raised for consideration of stakeholders on the above-mentioned issues. Written comments on the Consultation Paper are invited from the stakeholders by 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and counter-comments by 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

[https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_30112021.pdf](https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_30112021.pdf)



## 2. Webinar

The Regional Office of TRAI, Jaipur has organized a Webinar through online on “Cloud Computing - Demystified” using Airmeet Platform on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Shri Pr. Advisor Sh. Mahendra Srivastava, TRAI was the Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address.

The webinar was conducted to discuss various aspects of Cloud Computing - Demystified and around 230 plus attendees joined.



### 3. Workshop

#### **TRAI conducted Workshop on Capacity Building of Consumer Advocacy Groups held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Bhuj (Gujarat):**

TRAI organised Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of Consumer Advocacy Groups (CAGs) on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Bhuj (Gujarat) for capacity development of CAGs, Telecom Service Providers, and other stakeholders. The Regional Workshop has been attended by the representatives of Telecom Service Providers and Consumer Advocacy Groups of Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. During the workshop, the participants discussed various initiatives taken by TRAI in recent times to protect the interest of telecom consumers.

In this workshop, CAGs have shared information about their organisational efforts in creating awareness of telecom consumers, participation in various consumer educational activities, and resolution of appeals. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have explained to the participants about the steps taken by them towards consumer protection and grievance redressal, measures taken towards enhancing consumer education, various mobile apps developed for increased accessibility.



**Workshop at Bhuj (Gujarat) held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

## 4. Important Event



**The Preamble of the Constitution was read on Constitution Day at TRAI Headquarters, New Delhi on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

## 5. Telecom Subscriptions and Other releases

### 5.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	637.44	21.39	658.83
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	528.86	1.93	530.79
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	<b>1166.30</b>	<b>23.32</b>	<b>1189.62</b>
Overall Tele-density (%)	85.15	1.70	86.86
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.65	91.72	55.38
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.35	8.28	44.62
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Millions)	774.39	24.55	798.95

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in October 2021 were 996.47 million.

In October 2021, 7.29 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of October 2021, a total of 645.54 million consumers have availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

### 5.2 Panel of Auditors (Updated List) to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) dated 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

TRAI releases updated list of panel of auditors to carry out digital addressable systems from time to time. In this context, TRAI released the updated list for panel of auditors on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021.



[https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Auditors%21\\_list\\_09112021.pdf](https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Auditors%21_list_09112021.pdf)

### 5.3 TRAI has issued an Implementation Plan for the New Regulatory Framework 2020 on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021

TRAI issued an Implementation Plan for the New Regulatory Framework 2020 on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021, through which all the Broadcasters and Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs) are informed to comply with the provisions of the



New Regulatory Framework 2020 issued on 01.01.2020, as upheld by Hon'ble High Court of Bombay, and report the compliance to the Authority as under:

- a) All the broadcasters shall report to the Authority, any change in name, nature, language, Maximum Retail Price (MRP) per month of channels composition of bouquets, and MRP of bouquets of channels as per the New Regulatory Framework 2020, by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and simultaneously publish such information on their website. The broadcasters who have already submitted their RIOs in compliance of the New Regulatory Framework may also revise their RIOs by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
- b) All the Distribution Platform Operator (DPOs) shall report to the Authority, Distributor Retail Price (DRP) of pay channels, the composition of a bouquet of pay channels/free-to-air channels, and DRP of bouquets of pay channels, as per the New Regulatory Framework 2020 by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020, and simultaneously publish such information on their website.

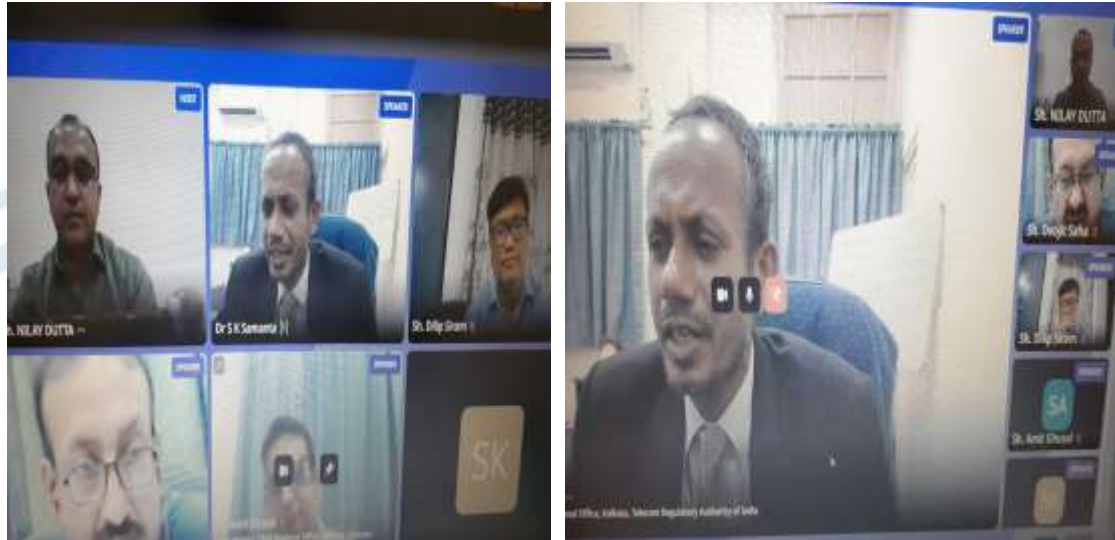
All distributors of television channels shall offer and obtain the option for subscription of new bouquets or channels from the subscribers in compliance with the provisions of New Regulatory Framework 2020 from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and shall ensure that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 services to the subscribers are provided as per the bouquets or channels opted by the subscribers.

## 6. Events

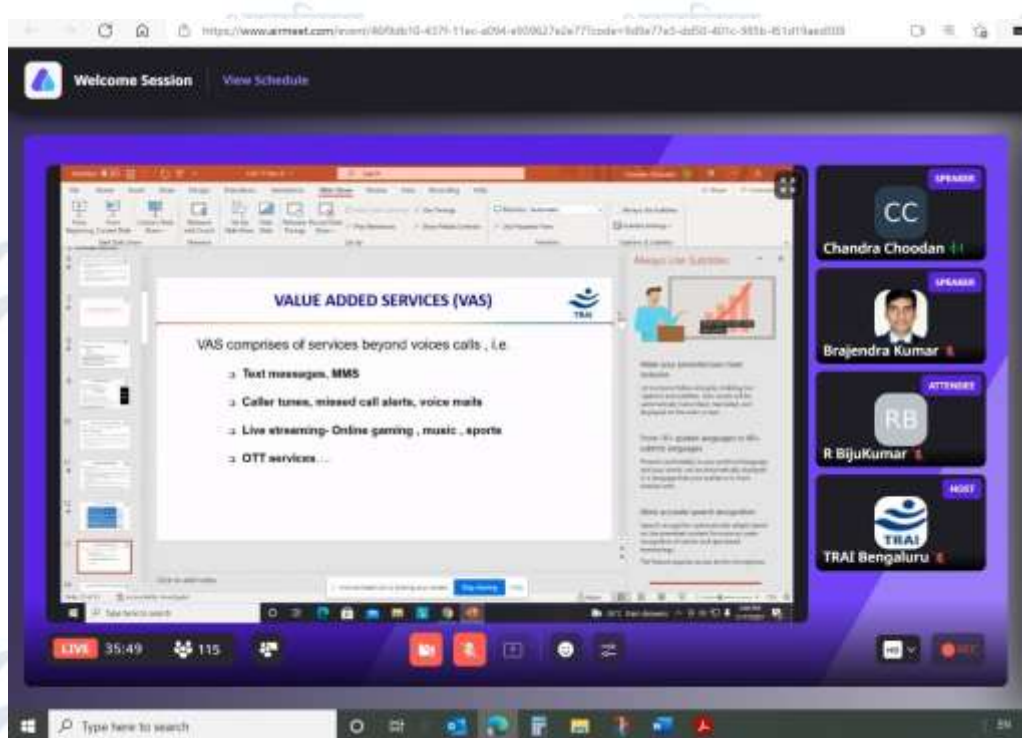
**6.1 The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised during November 2021 through the online platform:**

Sl. No.	Place	Date
1	Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh)	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
2	Kerala	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
3	Karnataka	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
4	Andhra Pradesh	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
5	Chhattisgarh	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2021

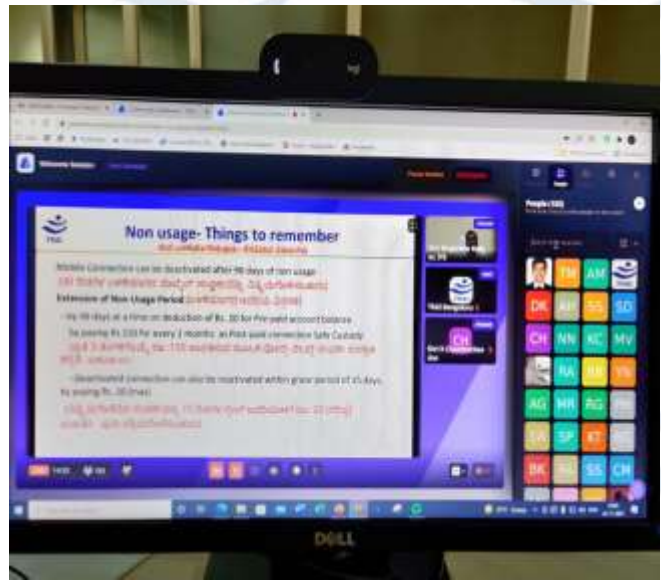
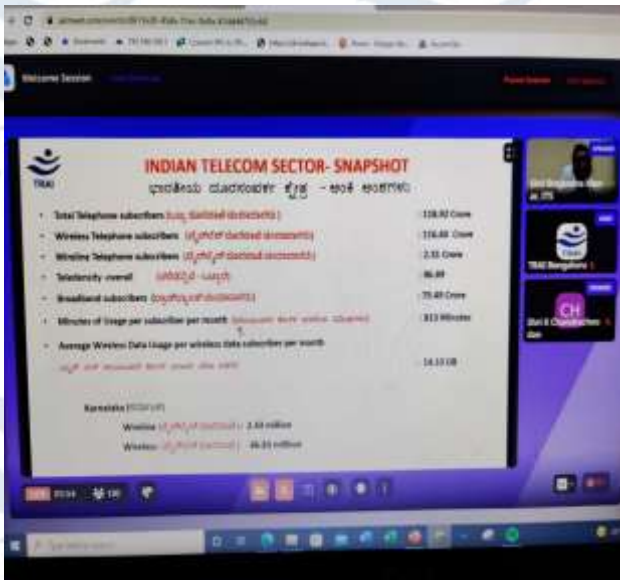
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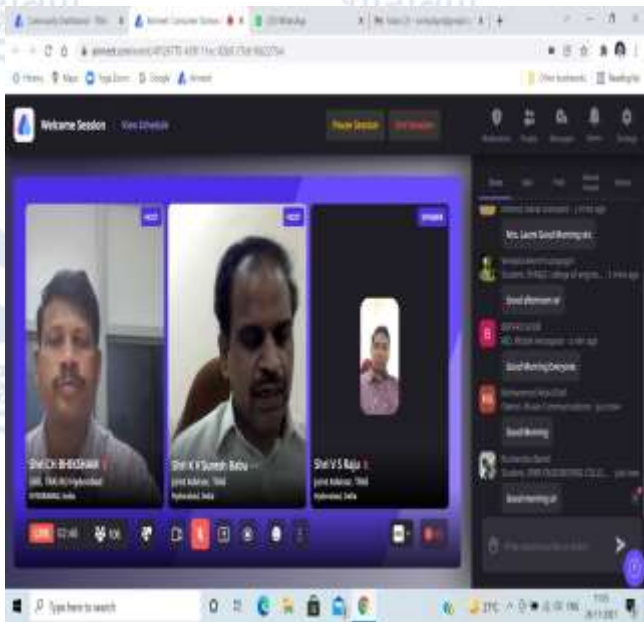
**CoP for Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



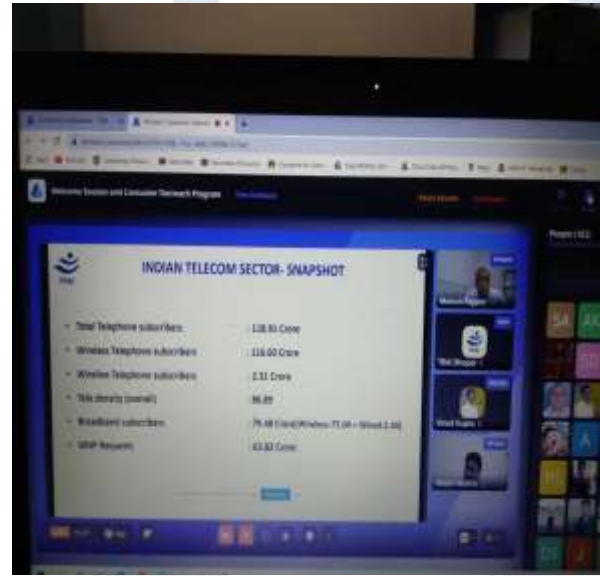
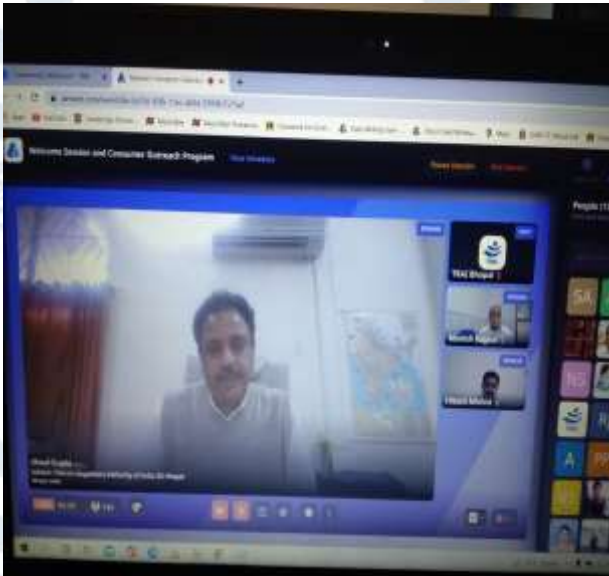
**CoP for Kerala held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



**CoP for Karnataka held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



**CoP for Andhra Pradesh held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



**CoP for Chhattisgarh held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021**


***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](http://www.trai.gov.in)***

***Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg,  
(Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.***

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