

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2022

Y E A R S



Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI delivered the Keynote address at the Conference 'Broadband For All' on 27th June 2022 at Stockholm, Sweden

ANNIVERSARY

1. Recommendations

1.1 TRAI's Response dated 5th May 2022 on DoT back reference dated 9th March 2022 on Recommendations on Licensing Framework for Satellite-based connectivity for Low Bit Rate Applications

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), vide its reference letter dated 23rd November 2020, had requested TRAI to furnish recommendations on the Licensing framework to enable the provisioning of satellite-based low-bit-rate applications for both commercial as well as captive usage. TRAI furnished the recommendations on 26th August 2021.

In this context, DoT informed that the Digital Communications Commission (DCC) considered the TRAI recommendations and decided to accept all the recommendations except of NLD SUC, which was referred back to TRAI.

After examining the comments of DoT, TRAI sent its response on 5th May 2022. The views given by the Authority have been placed on TRAI's website www.traigov.in.



https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_05052022.pdf

1.2 TRAI's Response dated 09.05.2022 on DoT back reference dated 29.04.2022 on Recommendations on Auction of Spectrum in frequency bands identified for IMT/5G

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had, inter-alia, requested TRAI to provide its recommendations on applicable reserve price, band plan, block size, 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, 2500 MHz, 3300-3670 MHz and 24.25-28.5 GHz bands for IMT/5G. The Authority after detailed consultation process had sent its 'Recommendations on Auction of Spectrum in frequency bands identified for IMT/5G' on 11th April 2022.

DoT referred back some of the said TRAI's recommendations on 29th April 2022 for reconsideration.

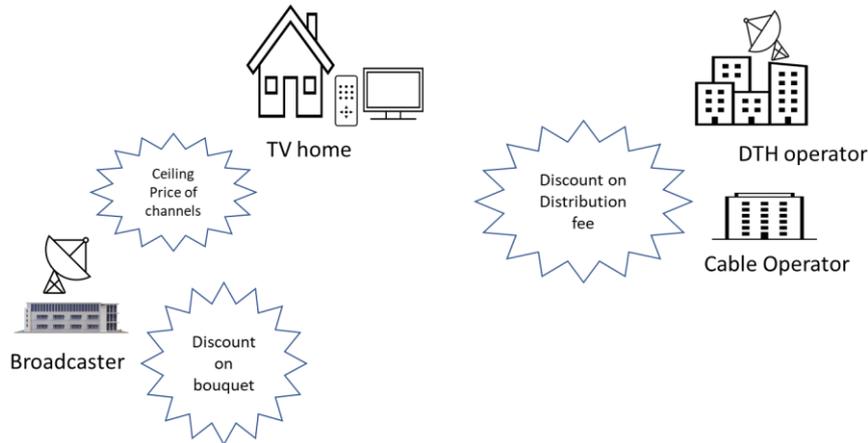
After examining the comments of DoT, TRAI finalized its response to the back reference and sent them on 9th May 2022. The views given by the Authority have been placed on TRAI's website www.traigov.in.



<https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations.pdf>

2. Consultation Paper

2.1 Consultation Paper on “Issues Relating to New Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting and Cable Services”



TRAI released a Consultation Paper on “Issues related to New Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting and Cable services” on 7th May 2022. The Authority has issued this Consultation Paper for seeking stakeholders’ comments on points/issues which are pending for full implementation of New Regulatory Framework 2020. This paper primarily discusses issues related to discount given in the formation of the bouquet, ceiling price of channels for inclusion in bouquet, and discount offered by broadcasters to DPOs in addition to distribution fee.

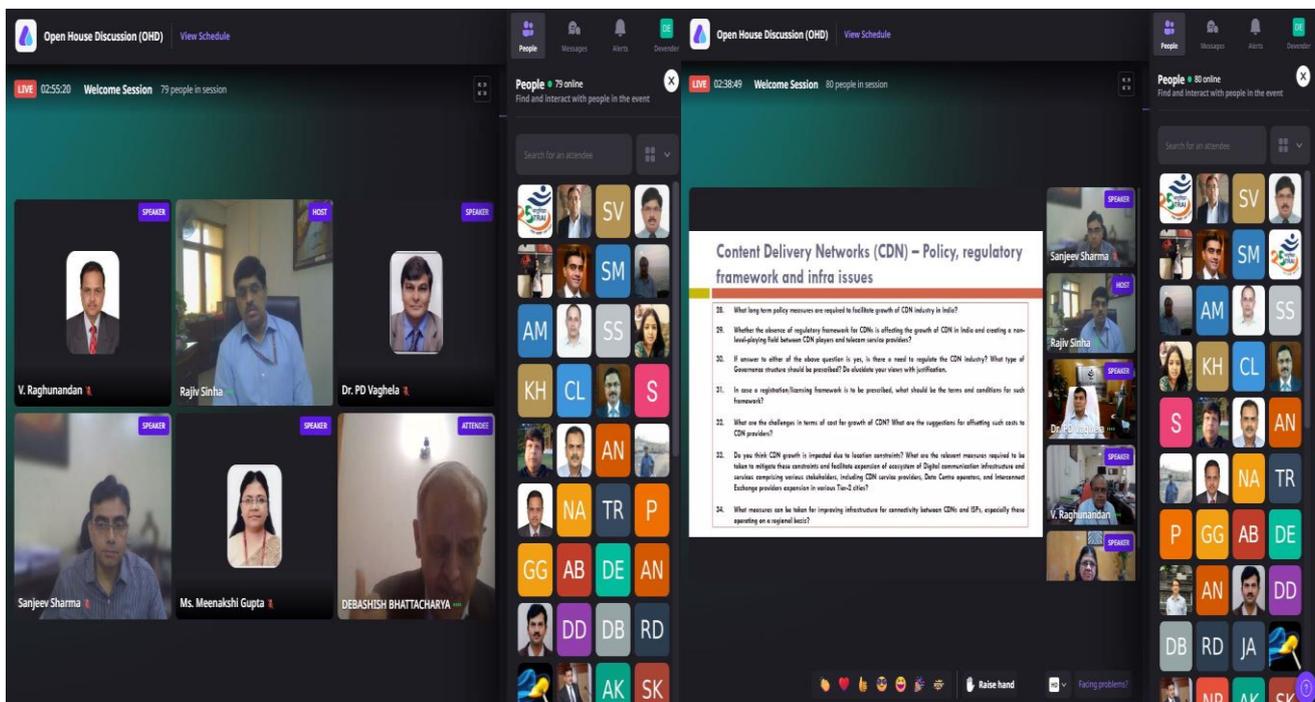
https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_07052022.pdf



3. Open House Discussion (OHD)

3.1 TRAI conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) through video conferencing on 6th May 2022

TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on "Regulatory Framework for Promoting Data Economy Through Establishment of Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks and Interconnect Exchanges in India" on 16.12.2021 seeking 'Comments' and 'Counter-Comments' from all the concerned Stakeholders. The comments from 33 distinct stakeholders and counter-comments from 9 stakeholders were received. In this regard an Open House Discussion (OHD) was held with the stakeholders on the questions raised on this Consultation Paper on 06th May 2022 through Video Conferencing. The stakeholders expressed their views before the Authority.



4. Events

4.1 The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, addressed the gathering on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of TRAI on 17th May 2022, held in New Delhi



On the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of TRAI, Hon'ble Prime Minister graced the function as the Chief Guest. The function was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 17th May 2021, the day is also known as “World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)”. While speaking to the gathering Hon'ble Prime Minister reiterated the need for collaborative regulation by all sectors, while congratulating TRAI on the successful completion of 25 years as a Regulator of Telecom and Broadcasting Sectors in the Country.

<https://youtu.be/hxt6VJ1x4dg>

During the function, Hon'ble Prime Minister released the following:

- ✓ A Postal Stamp (video link is available <https://youtu.be/U6lAzUrhrtM>)
- ✓ A souvenir narrating the 25 years of regulatory journey of TRAI (video link is available <https://youtu.be/mRXUXLxd46k>)

- ✓ A Short Film on TRAI on “Telecom Evolution in *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, 5G & Future Prospects” (video link available in English language is <https://youtu.be/OP9SA9AY7vs> and Hindi language is <https://youtu.be/EbwqgCxu7MQ>)
- ✓ The PM Launched 5G Test Beds for use by the industries & start-ups at IIT, Madras, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kanpur & Bangalore on 17th May 2022.



- Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted that the Indian telecom market is the second largest in the world with 1.17 billion telecom subscribers and with this huge base, India has presented a model of vibrant growth of the Telecom and Broadcasting sectors in the country, ably supported by policy and regulatory environment. Prime Minister also appreciated that the Telecom sector has been playing a constructive role in the economic development of the country and has contributed significantly towards the GDP of the country.



- The celebration started with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp followed by the welcome address by Mrs. Meenakshi Gupta, Member, TRAI. Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI took the audience through the 25 years of regulatory journey of TRAI and commended the contribution of earlier Authority and officers in building TRAI as a professional organisation of high standards. He also mentioned that TRAI will continue to work on important sectorial issues including new technology, technological disruptions, etc. and their impact on the Telecom and Broadcasting sectors, and the overall economy and society.
- On the occasion, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary General, International Telecommunications Union (ITU) sent his greetings and a congratulatory message to commemorate TRAI's Silver Jubilee.
- Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, Dr. L. Murugan, Hon'ble Minister of State for I&B shared their views on this occasion and spoke about the role of TRAI as a regulator of Telecom and Broadcasting sectors. The ministers commended the work of TRAI as a regulator and have stated that the recommendations of TRAI have helped the government to take many policy decisions. They also appreciated the good synergy between the policy maker and regulator. The ministers congratulated TRAI for 25 years of service to the nation. Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary (I&B) also shared his thoughts on the occasion and congratulated TRAI for completing 25 years of service to the nation.



Ceremonial lighting of
the lamp by
Dr. P.D. Vaghela,
Chairman,
Mrs. Meenakshi Gupta,
Member, TRAI

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw,
Hon'ble Minister of
Communications





Shri Devusinh Chauhan,
Hon'ble Minister of State
for Communications

Dr. L. Murugan, Hon,ble
Minister of State for I&B



Vote of thanks by
Sh. Raghunandan,
Secretary, TRAI



5. Seminar

5.1 TRAI organised International Regulators Roundtable on Collaborative Regulations using RegTech and Technology Platforms and a Seminar on “Collaborative Regulations: Co-creation and sharing of infrastructure” on 18th May 2022

On the historic occasion when country is celebrating the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, of completing 75 years of independence, TRAI also celebrated 25 Years of its existence.

Technological innovation and information communication technologies have become crucial to foster socio-economic development of a nation. The next generation communications technologies are providing innovation solutions to

address numerous challenges in core sectors like education, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, banking and financial, power, city administration, managing ports, airports and rail networks. Innovative digital technologies have blurred the boundaries – not only between various sectors within a country, but also between different countries. The way these technologies are used, they have forced the regulators to work together and collaborate both across sectors within country and with regulators of other countries.

As part of Silver Jubilee Celebrations, TRAI organised the following two parallel events/themes on 18th May 2022 at Hotel Ashok, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi –

- i) International regulators Round-table on collaborative Regulations using RegTech and Technology platform, and
- ii) Seminar on “Collaborative Regulations: Co-creation and sharing of infrastructure”

The Seminar was organised to take forward the PM Gati Shakti initiative of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji that has already showed the path of integrated planning and coordinated implementation for infrastructure connectivity projects.



In the Seminar, eminent speakers from key ministerial departments and establishments such as Secretary - Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Secretary

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Chairman - Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and Member Technology - DoT along with senior TRAI officials, shared their views on the seminar theme, with the target audience. The event also included a 'High Level Ministerial Session' which was graced by Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles as well as Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways.



The Seminar was structured into different sessions. The sessions, broadly focused on the following specific areas:

- (i) Secure, sustainable, scalable, and collaborative approach to creation of digital infrastructure solution for smart cities in India.
- (ii) Multi-lateral approach to creation and feasibility of infrastructure sharing in telecom and power sector - Possibilities and Challenges.
- (iii) Creation of common utility corridors, its impact and utilization strategy as a shared infrastructure for e-Kranti.
- (iv) Cross-sectoral dynamics of public-private collaboration for creating innovative digital infrastructure.



Shri Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways





The Roundtable had participation from international organizations like Asia Pacific Tele-community and GSMA, Heads and representatives of International regulatory authorities from various countries like Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, Turkey, and UAE who shared their thoughts on regulatory practices being adopted/proposed to be adopted in curbing spam and improving the service quality inside the buildings. Another technology discussed at this Roundtable was Regulatory Technology (or RegTech) which was the management of the regulatory process through information technology to enhance regulatory and compliance processes. RegTech helps regulators and stakeholders to enhance transparency and consistency, and it helps to standardize regulatory practices such that higher quality regulation can be provided at a much lower cost.



The deliberations in the International Regulators Round-table focused on leveraging technology to find solutions to probable policy interventions or new regulatory approaches to design, deploy, operate, expand, and upgrade digital connectivity infrastructure inside buildings and other areas. Another focus area of discussions was to develop a methodology to measure and evaluate quality of experience in buildings and other areas to empower end users to get the requisite infrastructure for digital connectivity, whether on their own, or via agents, or by nudging relevant entities. International regulators also discussed that to curb Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC), it is extremely essential to follow a collaborative approach among various stakeholders while using new technologies like blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning to create an environment where subscribers do not have to suffer the nuisance of UCC and spam in their daily lives. The international participants showed interest in TRAI's initiative and regulations in this regard.

6. Workshop

6.1 TRAI held a workshop with leading Auditors on 'Review of Reporting & Methodology' on 27th May 2022

As part of Silver Jubilee, TRAI held a workshop on "DAS Audit - Review of Reporting and Methodology" in Broadcasting and Cable Service Sector was held on 27th May 2022 in TRAI HQ in hybrid mode (physical & virtual). Members of IBDF, representatives of BECIL and empaneled auditors of TRAI attended the workshop. Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI impressed upon auditors to be an enabler for all service providers especially small MSOs.



7. Telecom Subscriptions

7.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 30th April 2022.

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	623.78	23.22	646.99
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	518.88	1.94	520.82
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	1142.66	25.16	1167.82
Overall Tele-density (%)	83.05	1.83	84.88
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.59	92.27	55.40
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.41	7.73	44.60
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Millions)	760.94	27.83	788.77

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in April 2022 were 1013.81 million.

In April 2022, 7.82 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of April 2022, a total of 697.57 million consumers have availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

7.2 **Panel of Auditors (Updated List) to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) dated 23rd May 2022**

TRAI released an 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 23rd May 2022.

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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