

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2023



Inaugural Address by Mrs. Meenakshi Gupta, Acting Chairperson, TRAI in the ITU Workshop on “Cost Models for Data Services and International Internet Connectivity” on 4th October 23

Important Awareness Information

Beware of fraud in the name of TRAI

It has been brought to the notice of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India that some companies /agencies/ individuals are fraudulently asking public/customers that they are calling from TRAI and mobile numbers of the public/customers will be disconnected as the numbers' are being used for sending unsolicited messages.

It is also informed by these companies / agencies / individuals that AADHAAR numbers of the public were used for obtaining SIM cards and are being used for illegal activities. These companies/agencies/individuals are also trying to trick the customers/public to come on Skype video call to avoid disconnection of mobile numbers.



Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

The public at large is hereby informed that TRAI does not block/ disconnect any mobile number of any individual telecom customers. TRAI never sends any message or make any call for disconnection of mobile numbers. TRAI has not authorized any agency to contact customers for such activities and all such calls are illegal and are to be dealt as per Law. Therefore, any call or message claiming to be from TRAI should be considered potentially fraudulent.

As per Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulation (TCCCPR) 2018 of TRAI, Access Service Providers are responsible for taking appropriate actions against the mobile numbers involved in sending unsolicited communications. Affected persons may take up the matter with the concerned Service Providers directly on their respective Customer Service Center numbers or on National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal: cybercrime.gov.in or call Cyber Crime Helpline Number 1930.

Seminars

TRAI organized Seminar on “Convergence of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AIML) and 5G” on 9th October 2023



TRAI organise seminars in the spirit of its pro-active role in consumer education in collaboration with the industry, academia and other stakeholders and ensure that regulatory framework fosters new technological developments and trends. This seminar was intended to deliberate with all the stakeholders for a concerted effort for deployment and adoption of these technologies (5G, AI/ML) in different sectors, with a view to improve service delivery. It was also aimed at creating such a platform for close interaction and brainstorming and taking decisions by all Government departments for further course of action.

Shri V Raghunandan, in his brief address welcomed Smt. Meenakshi Gupta, Member and acting Chairperson, TRAI, other distinguished guests from the DoT and State Governments (Bihar and

Jharkhand), esteemed speakers, senior officers of TRAI, DoT, BSNL, TSPs, Press & Media and other attendees from the industry, general telecom consumers etc. While appreciating the rapid rollout of 5G service in India by the TSPs he stated that full potential of it is yet to be realized and can only be realized by the interplay with other complementary technologies such as AI & ML. Sh. Raghunandan apprised the audiences about the very purpose of this seminar and how such seminar provides a platform for deliberation amongst various stakeholders. He then briefed the audience about the session plan, Speakers, and topic details.

Keynote Address by Smt. Meenakshi Gupta, Member and acting Chairperson, TRAI:

Smt. Gupta, Member and acting Chairperson, TRAI in her keynote address gave utmost importance on convergence of interdependent technologies to yield maximum benefit out of these technologies. Development of technologies in silos is good but interplay with other compatible technologies is great- she said. She also stressed the importance of data accuracy and data validation while building AI solutions. From the dictionary definition of AI&ML to different branches of AI, such as Natural Language Processing, Neural networks etc., she touched upon all briefly to set the context of the seminar.

She also mentioned about the significance of this convergence on different sectors like agriculture, health, crime detection etc., some of whose use cases were showcased during the India Mobile Congress (IMC)-2022. She underlined the importance of fair, transparent, and responsible use of AI for the development of society and also informed the audiences about the recommendations made by TRAI in July, 2023 on *Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in Telecommunication Sector*, wherein among others, it was recommended to form an Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) which should coordinate with other sectoral Ministries/ Departments to encourage and develop indigenous AI use cases for various sectors. She concluded her address hoping that convergence of 5G and AI/ML will lead to a smarter, faster, and more connected world. Shri Devendra Singh, CGM, BSNL in a very simple and lucid manner, explained the importance and significance of these technologies in our day-to-day life and the benefit of which we all are getting knowingly or unknowingly. He also cautioned about the misuse of these technologies and why should everyone be careful to protect themselves from such misuses.

Sh. Ashok Kumar, Add. DG, DoT in his address, mentioned that in every generation there are some new technologies which sweep over all other, like what communication technologies did in the last generation, AI will do in the next. Use of AI&ML is already there in many applications, which even ordinary people use nowadays but the real upliftment will take place on convergence of the computational power of AI with the connectivity power of 5G. He emphasized that ethical and responsible use of AI has the power to bring massive changes in the society.

In the final session of the Workshop there was a lively panel discussion wherein representatives from the Department of Telecom, TRAI, Telecom Service Providers and Industry discussed various facets of the 5G and AI/ML technologies and its use cases.

TRAI Regional office Jaipur organised Seminar on "Technology Trends in IoT & Its applications" at Chandigarh on 17th October 2023. Officers from Central & State Government, industry experts, Punjab University faculty and students attended the seminar.



Events

ITU- TRAI Workshop on Cost Models for Data Services and International Internet Connectivity on 4th October 2023



Ms. Meenakshi Gupta, Acting Chairperson TRAI, administered oath the integrity pledge to officers & staff at TRAI, HQ during Vigilance Awareness week observed from 30 Oct- 05 Nov, 2023, in which the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls in.



Shri V. Raghunandan, Secretary-TRAI administered oath to the officers and staff of TRAI on the occasion of 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' on 31st October 2023



Telecom Subscriptions

Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st August 2023:

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Million)	629.39	28.08	657.47
Rural Telephone subscribers (Million)	519.04	2.70	521.74
Total Telephone subscribers (Million)	1148.43	30.78	1179.21
Overall Tele-density (%)	82.48	2.21	84.69
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.80	91.24	55.76
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.20	8.76	44.24
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	840.12	36.41	876.53

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in August 2023 were 1043.38 million.

In August 2023, 12.67 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of August 2023, a total of 877.43 million consumers availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

Other 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 25th October 2023, vide which extension up to 22.10.2025 was given to one Auditor and two Auditors M/s AMAA & Associates and M/s Bansal R. Kumar & Associates were removed from the list due to completion of their existing empanelment period. Further, TRAI released another updated list of panel of Auditors to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) on 30th October 2023 vide which extension up to 30.10.2025 was given to one Auditor.

The total number of auditors empanelled by TRAI to carry out the audit of DAS as on 31st October 2023 are 48.

Consumer Outreach Programmes

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

S. No.	Place	Date
1	Puducherry (TN)	11 th October 2023
2	Chikkamagaluru (Karnataka)	27 th October 2023
3	Jangaon (Telangana)	31 st October 2023

PHOTO GALLERY



Consumer Outreach Program at Puducherry (TN) was held on 11th October 2023 by Regional Office, Hyderabad



Consumer Outreach Programme Chikkamagaluru (Karnataka) on 27th October 2023 by Regional Office, Bengaluru



Special Consumer Outreach Program at Jangaon (Telangana) held on 31st October 2023 by Regional Office, Hyderabad

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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