

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



सत्यमेव जयते

E-NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2021



Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI, felicitated by D/o Pharmaceuticals (DoP), M/o Chemical and Fertilizers, GOI, in recognition of his exceptional leadership and contribution towards handling the supply of essential medical products during COVID-19, while serving as the Secretary, DoP.

1. Recommendations

1.1 TRAI's response dated 11th January 2021 to the clarification sought by DoT on TRAI's recommendation dated 13th March 2020 regarding the enhancement of scope of IP-I Registration

TRAI released recommendations on the 'Enhancement of Scope of Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I) Registration' on 13th March 2020.

Salient features of the recommendations are:

- i) The scope of Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I) Registration should be expanded to satisfy the present need for telegraph in the country.
- ii) Any service provider, who has a valid authorization from the Government of India to establish, maintain, and work a telegraph to deliver Telecommunication Services, within any part of the country, shall only be eligible to obtain such a telegraph infrastructure on lease/rent/purchase basis from IP-I Registration holders.
- iii) The expanded scope of the IP-I Registration should include to own, establish, maintain, and work all such infrastructure items, equipment, and systems, which are required for establishing the Wireline Access Network, Radio Access Network (RAN), and Transmission Links. However, it shall not include core network elements such as Switch, MSC, HLR, IN, etc. The scope of the IP-I Registration should include, but not be limited to, Right of Way, Duct Space, Optical Fiber, Tower, Feeder cable, Antenna, Base Station, In-Building Solution (IBS), Distributed Antenna System (DAS), etc., within any part of India.
- iv) The IP-I registration holder should be eligible to apply for and issue of licence under the Indian Wireless Telegraph Act, 1933, to possess such wireless telegraphy apparatus that is permitted under the scope of IP-I Registration. However, the IP-I Registration holder should not be eligible to apply for and assignment of any kind of licensed spectrum.

Department of Telecommunication (DoT) in its letter dated 18th November 2020 stated that the basic premise of TRAI for making these recommendations may perhaps have to be relooked in view of the Hon'ble High Court judgement dated 11th November 2013 and Hon'ble TDSAT judgement dated 5th July 2018. DoT also stated that from these judgements it appears that the service providers, who have IP-I Registration under the guidelines of DoT, are not to be considered as licensees under Section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act.

The Authority in its response gave detailed analysis quoting relevant judgements of the Hon'ble High Court & Hon'ble TDSAT, provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, Row rules, etc., and reiterated its recommendations by clarifying that the existing scope of establishing and maintaining the telegraph infrastructure under IP-I is a kind of class of licence under Section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, which is issued by means of a registration. More details can be accessed from the following link/QR code:

https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_11012021.pdf



2. Other Information

2.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st December 2020.

| Particulars | Wireless | Wireline | Total (Wireless + Wireline) |
|--|----------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Urban Telephone subscribers (Million) | 629.67 | 18.24 | 647.91 |
| Rural Telephone subscribers (Million) | 524.11 | 1.81 | 525.92 |
| Total Telephone subscribers (Million) | 1153.77 | 20.05 | 1173.83 |
| Overall Tele-density (%) | 84.90 | 1.48 | 86.38 |
| Share of Urban Subscription (%) | 54.57% | 90.95% | 55.20% |
| Share of Rural Subscription (%) | 45.43% | 9.05% | 44.80% |
| No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million) | 725.12 | 22.29 | 747.41 |

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in December, 2020, were 975.43 million.

In December, 2020, 8.20 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. Till the end of December, 2020, a total of 544.61 million consumers have availed MNP facility since its implementation.

2.2 Implementation of eOffice in TRAI

TRAI implemented eOffice on 1st January 2021. This eOffice platform had been inaugurated by Dr. P D Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI.

The main objective of eOffice is to bring in further efficiency and standardization of processes in the internal working of the organization. During COVID-19 it was realised that the lesser movement of paper/files in offices proves beneficial for everyone.

With the adoption of eOffice, TRAI has now become largely a paperless organization. This adoption shall ensure greater accountability and transparency in administration. It shall reduce the costs incurred in storage and prevention of physical files and reduce chances of data loss due to tampering of files/loss of files. It shall also facilitate officers to dispose off files from “anywhere anytime;” thereby improving work efficiency, with 24/7 access to files and important papers. With the launch of eOffice, TRAI has taken another significant step towards greater transparency in its operations.



2.3 Panel of Auditors (Updated List) to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) dated 21st January 2021

3. Webinar

3.1 TRAI conducted a webinar on “Data Privacy, Safety and Security” on 29th January 2021.

TRAI organized a webinar on “Data Privacy, Safety and Security” on 29th January 2021.

The webinar was inaugurated by Dr. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Roorkee, who was the Chief Guest of the occasion. Shri Sanjeev Banzai, Advisor, TRAI, New Delhi, was Special Guest for the webinar. The session started with a welcome speech by Shri Vinod Gupta, Advisor, RO Bhopal, which was followed by a keynote address by the Chief Guest.

In the webinar, presentations were made by Dr. Vireshwar Kumar, Professor, IIT Delhi; Shri Udai Kumar Srivastava, Senior DDG from Department of Telecom, New Delhi; and Shri Nisheeth Dixit, Advocate and Cyber law Consultant, Jaipur.

The webinar was attended by faculty members, research scholars, and students from many academic institutes, industry associations, representatives of Consumer Advocacy Groups (CAGs) and Telecom Service Providers, members from various consumer associations, officials of Government and public, etc., and the engaging discussion/interaction during the webinar benefitted many.



Webinar on “Data Privacy, Safety and Security” held on 29th January 2021

4. Events

4.1 The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised online in January 2021:

| Sl. No. | Place | Date |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Puducherry (UT) | 21st January 2021 |
| 2 | Gujarat | 22nd January 2021 |

PHOTO GALLERY



CoP for Puducherry held on 21st January 2021



CoP for Gujarat held on 22nd January 2021

Full details of the Directions/Orders/Consultation Paper/Report, Subscription Data, etc. mentioned in this newsletter are available on TRAI's website

www.traigov.in

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

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