



TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



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

Open House Discussion (OHD)



Dr RS Sharma , Chairman speaking at Open House Discussion on Consultation Paper on “Methodology for levy of Spectrum Charges for provision of Satellite based Services using Gateway installed in India under ‘sui-generis’ category” at TRAI HQ, New Delhi on 26.11.2018



**Dr RS Sharma Chairman TRAI in OHD on Consultation Paper on
“Estimation of Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges at
Cable Landing Stations” at TRAI HQ, New Delhi on 05.11.2018**

Seminars



Seminar on “Use of Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain in Telecom Sector” at Hyderabad on 15.11.2018



Seminar on “Digital Economy” at Vasanth Nagar (Bengaluru) on 29.11.2018

1. Regulations

1.1 The International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges (Amendment Regulations, 2018 (No. 08 of 2018) has been issued on 28.11.2018)

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued “The International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges and Co-Location Charges (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (08 of 2018)”.

2. Access Facilitation Charges (AFC) are the charges, which are payable by International Long Distance Operators (ILDO)/Internet Service Providers (ISP) to the owner of the cable landing station to access the acquired international bandwidth in a submarine cable. Submarine cables provide vital international telecommunication links between countries across the world. Submarine cables terminate in the country through cable landing stations.

3. TRAI had issued The International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges and Co-Location Charges Regulations, 2012 on 21.12.2012. The AFC Charges and Co-location Charges specified in the Regulations dated 21.12.2012 were to be effective from 01.01.2013. However, it was challenged in the Hon’ble Madras High court by two of the Owners of Cable Landing Station (OCLS). The Single Judge Bench of the Hon’ble Madras High Court on 11.11.2016 had dismissed the writ petitions. But, appeals were filed by these two OCLS before a Division Bench of the Hon’ble Madras High Court. The Hon’ble Division Bench of Madras High Court vide its final Judgment and order dated 02.07.2018 had quashed the Schedules I, II and III of ‘The International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges Regulations, 2012 dated 21.12.2012’ and has directed that TRAI shall redo and re-enact the aforesaid schedules.

4. Subsequently, TRAI has filed Special Leave Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the judgment of the Division Bench of Hon'ble Madras High Court. Similar, Special Leave Petitions were also filed by other stakeholders in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its Order dated 08.10.2018 had requested the Authority to re-work the figures on both counts within a period of six weeks. The both counts are 'Utilization factor' and 'Conversion factor' which were used for estimation of the Access Facilitation Charges. Accordingly, to seek the views of the stakeholders the Authority issued a Consultation Paper on "Estimation of Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges at Cable Landing Stations" on 18.10.2018. An Open House Discussion on the same was also held on 05.11.2018.

5. After taking into consideration the Comments, Counter Comments and Additional Comments received from stakeholders and analysis of other relevant facts, the Authority has decided to take the 'Utilisation Factor' of 70% and 'Conversion Factor' of 2.6, wherever applicable. Accordingly, the Schedules I, II and III of the principal regulations have been re-worked and the charges are being prescribed. The Authority has, accordingly, notified "The International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges and Co-Location Charges (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (08 of 2018)" on 28.11.2018.

2. Consultation Paper

2.1 Consultation Paper on ‘Regulatory Framework for Over the Top (OTT) communication Service:

TRAI issued Consultation Paper on ‘Regulatory Framework for Over the Top (OTT) communication Service’.

This consultation paper deliberates following issues:

- To analyse and discuss the implications of the growth of OTTs; the relationship between OTT players and TSPs;
- The similarity, if any, between services provided by the TSPs and OTT players;
- Changes that may be required in the current regulatory framework to govern these entities; and
- The manner in which such changes should be effected.

2.2 Consultation Paper on Review of extant provision for sending the printed bills to consumers of landline and Post paid Mobile subscribers

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper on 'Review of extant provision for sending the printed bills to consumers of landline and Post paid Mobile subscribers' on 15th November, 2018, inviting written comments from stakeholders by 10th December, 2018 and counter comments by 24th December, 2018.

3. Other Information

3.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 30.09.2018.

Particulars	No. of Wireless subscribers (in Millions)	No. of Wire-line Subscribers (in Millions)	No. of Total subscribers (Wireless + Wire-line) (in Millions)
Urban Telephone subscribers	647.70	18.95	666.64
Rural Telephone subscribers	521.59	3.17	524.76
Total Telephone subscribers	1169.29	22.11	1191.40
Overall Tele-density	89.51	1.69	91.20
Share of Urban Subscription	55.39%	85.68%	55.95%
Share of Rural Subscription	44.61%	14.32%	44.05%
No. of Broadband Subscribers	463.71	17.99	481.70

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in September, 2018 were 1013.23 million.

In the month of September, 2018, 5.03 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. Till the end of September, 2018, a total of 400.76 million consumers have availed MNP facility since its implementation.

3.2 Conducting of Independent Drive Tests (IDTs) :

TRAI has been regularly conducting the Independent Drive Tests (IDTs) through its appointed agency in cities, Highways and rail routes. Independent Drive Tests (IDTs) in 12 cities, 8 Highways and 3 Train Routes were conducted during 31st July 2018 to 4th October 2018, to assess the network quality provided by cellular mobile telephone service providers. The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were assessed for the networks of all telecom service providers operating in the region. KPIs for voice services were Coverage; Call Setup Success Rate; Drop Call Rate; Block Call Rate, Handover Success Rate; Rx Quality.

The details of IDTs are given below:-

Cities:-

- Gulbarga from 31st July to 2nd August 2018
- Dhanbad from 2nd to 4th August 2018
- Palakkad from 6th to 9th August 2018
- Indore from 7th to 9th August 2018
- Jhansi from 28th to 30th August 2018
- Jalandhar from 27th to 31st August 2018
- Hubli – Dharwad from 4th to 6th September 2018
- Kolhapur from 4th to 6th September 2018
- Salem from 4th to 7th September 2018
- Triuppur from 10th to 12th September 2018
- Dehradun from 11th to 13thSeptember 2018
- Leh from 13thSeptember 2018

Highways:-

- Raipur to Jagdalpur on 24th August 2018
- Srinagar to Leh from 11th to 12thSeptember 2018
- Dehradun to Nainital on 14thSeptember 2018
- Bangalore to Murdeshwar from 17th to 18thSeptember 2018
- Digha to Asansol on 25thSeptember 2018
- Asansol to Gaya on 26thSeptember 2018
- Gaya to Danapur on 27thSeptember 2018
- Mount Abu to Jodhpur on 30thSeptember 2018

Rail Routes:-

- Jabalpur to Singrauli on 16th August 2018
- Delhi to Mumbai from 18th to 19thSeptember 2018
- Allahabad to Gorakhpur on 4th October 2018

Detailed reports of IDTs in the above Cities, Highways and Rail Routes are available on TRAI website namely www.traigov.in .

3.3 TRAI conducts an Interactive Session on "New Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting & Cable Services"

TRAI conducted an Interactive Session on "New Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting & Cable Services" on 19.11.2018 at Scope complex, New Delhi, highlighting the benefits of new regulatory framework in broadcasting sector.

This interactive session was organised to create awareness amongst various service providers and the consumers at large. The interaction was aimed at ensuring smooth implementation of the new regulatory framework as per prescribed timelines. The session was attended by various participants representing Consumer Advocacy Groups, Broadcasters, Distribution Platform owners, Local Cable Operators and Industry Associations.

4. Consumer Outreach Programmes

The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised during the month of November, 2018

1	Katra (J&K)	01.11.2018
2	Kalimpong (West Bengal)	15.11.2018
3	Namchi (Sikkim)	15.11.2018
4	Hardoi (Uttar Pradesh)	15.11.2018
5	Nasik (Maharashtra)	16.11.2018
6	Bokaro (Jharkhand)	20.11.2018
7	Jaipur (Rajasthan)	20.11.2018
8	Kolkata (West Bengal)	22.11.2018
9	Hyderabad (Telangana)	27.11.2018
10	Nizamabad (Telangana)	29.11.2018
11	Erode (Tamilnadu)	29.11.2018

PHOTO GALLERY



CoP at Katra (J&K) held on 01.11.2018



CoP at Kalimpong (West Bengal) held on 15.11.2018



CoP at Namchi (Sikkim) held on 15.11.2018



CoP at Hardoi (Uttar Pradesh) held on 15.11.2018



CoP at Nasik (Maharashtra) held on 16.11.2018



CoP at Bokaro (Jharkhand) held on 20.11.2018



CoP at Jaipur (Rajasthan) held on 20.11.2018



CoP at Kolkata (West Bengal) held on 22.11.2018



CoP at Nizamabad (Telangana) held on 29.11.2018



CoP at Erode (Tamilnadu) held on 29.11.2018


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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