

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-NEWSLETTER



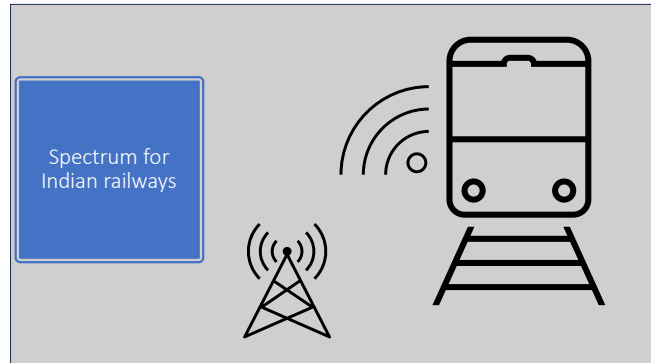
MARCH 2024

Mr. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman TRAI participated as a panelist in the session “Unlocking Opportunity through Digital Inclusion.” at GSMA Ministerial Programme, MWC 2024 at Barcelona, Spain on 28th February 2024



Consultations

TRAI released Consultation Paper on “Assignment of Additional Spectrum to Indian Railways for its Safety and Security Applications” on 7th February 2024



Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India through its letter dated 26.07.2023 has informed TRAI that Indian Railways has requested for an additional 5 MHz of paired spectrum in the 700 MHz band to be allocated for enhancing its safety and security systems. Through the said letter, DoT has requested TRAI to examine and provide its recommendations on-

- a. *Assignment of 5 MHz of additional spectrum to Indian Railways;*
- b. *TRAI may also consider the possibility of sharing of the spectrum between IR/NCRTC/RRTS/Metro and other similar networks to ensure the efficient utilization of spectrum.*
- c. *Considering the different spectrum valuation methodology as recommended by TRAI for the 5 MHz of paired spectrum in the 700 MHz band, assigned to Indian Railways and for NCRTC, TRAI may examine and if found necessary recommend uniform spectrum valuation and charging methodology considering similar usage in the same spectrum band.*

In this regard, a Consultation Paper on 'Assignment of Additional Spectrum to Indian Railways for its Safety and Security Applications' was released on 07.02.2024 seeking comments from stakeholders. Written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper were invited from stakeholders by 06.03.2024 and counter-comments by 20.03.2024.

TRAI released Consultation Paper on “Connectivity to Access Service VNOs from more than one NSO” on 23rd February 2024

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) requested TRAI to provide its recommendations on the following issues in respect of connectivity to access service VNOs from more than one NSO:

- i. *Appropriate number of network service operators (NSOs) with whom virtual network operators (VNOs) having Access Service authorization and providing wireline services can be permitted to take connectivity in a licensed service area (LSA); and*
- ii. *VNOs having Access Service authorization and providing both wireless and wireline services can be permitted to take connectivity from one NSO for wireless services and other NSO for wireline services in an LSA.*

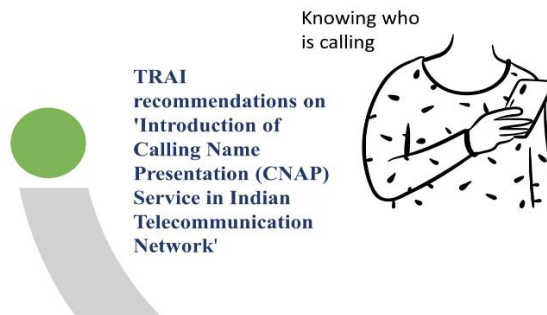
In this regard, a Consultation Paper on **“Connectivity to Access Service VNOs From More Than one NSO.”** was released on 23.02.2024 seeking comments from stakeholders. Written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper are invited from the stakeholders by 22.03.2024 and counter-comments by 05.04.2024.

Recommendation

TRAI released Recommendation on 'Introduction of Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) Service in Indian Telecommunication Network' on 23rd February 2024

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India has requested TRAI to provide recommendations on introducing the Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) service in Indian Telecommunication Network.

In this regard, TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on **'Introduction of Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) in Telecommunication Networks'** on 29.11.2022 for soliciting comments and counter comments of stakeholders. In response, 40 stakeholders submitted their comments, and five stakeholders furnished their counter comments. An Open House Discussion on the Consultation Paper was held on 09.03.2023, through virtual mode.



Based on the comments/ inputs received from stakeholders and on its own analysis, TRAI sent to the Government its Recommendations on **'Introduction of Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) Service in Indian Telecommunication Network'** on 23.02.2024.

The salient features of the Recommendations are as follows:

- a. *Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) Supplementary Service should be introduced in the Indian telecommunication network.*
- b. *Calling Line Identification (CLI) should be redefined as identity of the calling/originating subscriber in terms of telephone number assigned as per E.164 of ITU Recommendation/IP Address and the Calling name (CNAM) or any other identification as may be prescribed by the Licensor from time to time.*
- c. *All access service providers should provide Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) supplementary service to their telephone subscribers upon their request.*

- d. *The name identity information provided by the telephone subscriber in the Customer Application Form (CAF) should be used for the purpose of CNAP.*
- e. *A technical model for implementation of CNAP in Indian telecommunication network has been outlined.*
- f. *After acceptance of the recommendations, Government should issue appropriate instructions for making CNAP feature available in all devices sold in India after a suitable cut-off date.*
- g. *The subscriber entities holding bulk connections and business connections should be given the facility of presenting their 'preferred name' in place of the name appearing in the Customer Application Form (CAF).*
- h. *The 'preferred name' could be the 'trademark name' registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, or the 'trade name' registered with the GST Council, or any other such unique name duly registered with the Government, provided that the subscriber entity is able to present the necessary documents to prove the ownership of such name.*

Regulation

TRAI released notification of the panel of Auditors to Audit the accuracy of metering and billing systems of the Service providers on 26th February 2024

In accordance “Code of Practice for Metering and Billing Accuracy” Regulation, 2023 dated 11th September 2023, and guidelines thereof dated 19th September 2023, TRAI has to notify a panel of auditors to audit the accuracy of Metering and Billing Systems of the service providers and the service providers are required to appoint auditor by 31st March of every year. Accordingly, the Authority has empaneled following nine Audit Agencies as auditors to audit the accuracy of Metering & Billing system of service providers for a period of three years w.e.f. 22nd February 2024 for audit of FY 2024-25 onwards in accordance with the Quality of Service (Code of Practice for Metering and Billing Accuracy) Regulations 2023 (03 of 2023) dated 11th September 2023 including all subsequent amendments made thereto and the guidelines & checklist, as issued by the Authority from time to time:

M/s Agarwal & Dhandhania

M/s Anil Ashok & Associates

M/s Arvind Rattan & Co.

M/s K.K. Goel & Associates

M/s Khandelwal Jain & Co.

M/s R.S. Patel & Co.

M/s S.K. Mittal & Co.

M/s Sanjay Gupta & Associates

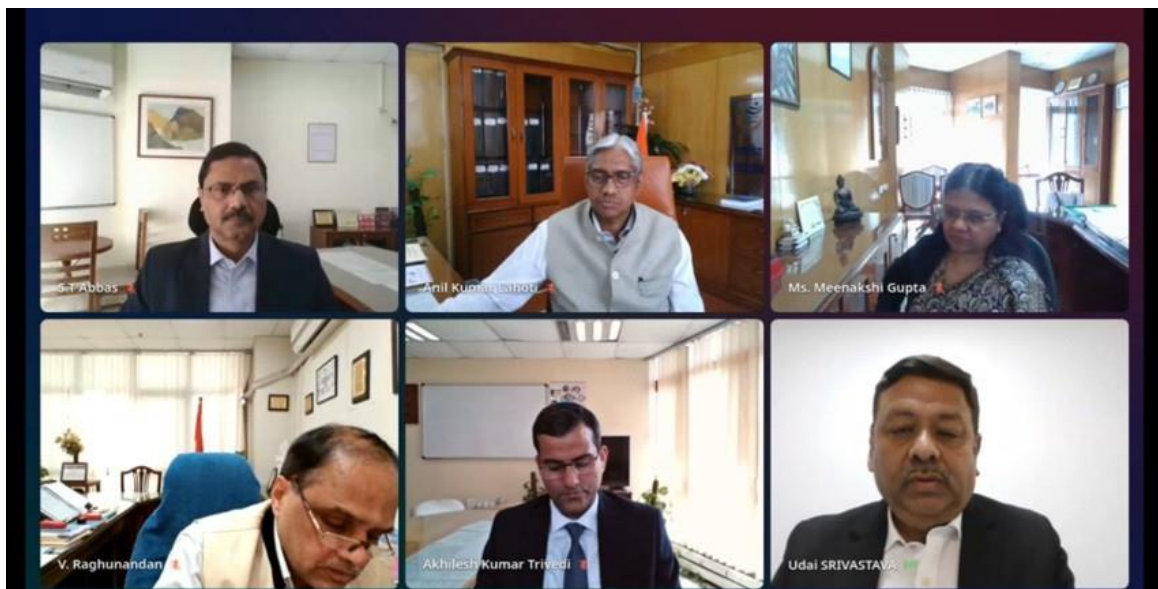
M/s Vinod Singhal & Co.

Open House Discussion

TRAI conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) through video conferencing on the Consultation Paper on “Draft Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2023” on 22nd February 2024.

A few photographs of the OHD are appended.





Seminar

Seminar on “Digital Economy-Trends and Developments” at Lucknow on 12th February 2024

TRAI organized a Seminar on "Digital Economy-Trends and Developments" at Lucknow by Regional Office, Bhopal. The Seminar was inaugurated by Ms. Meenakshi Gupta, Member, TRAI and delivered key-note address.

An eminent gathering from Central & State Govt, RBI & financial institutes, Industry experts, members of Lucknow management association, faculty and students of various educational institutions participated in the seminar.

Shri Vinod Gupta, Advisor, TRAI delivered the welcome address to all the guests, speakers, and participants. He said that the mission of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is to create and sustain conditions for the growth of telecom services in the country in such a manner and at such a pace, which can enable India to play a leading role in the emerging global information society. One of its main objectives is also to provide a fair and transparent policy and environment which encourages equal opportunities for all and facilitates fair competition. Under these objectives, various offices of TRAI continuously interact with all the stakeholders in the telecom and broadcasting and cable sectors through seminars, customer interaction programs, open house sessions, etc.

Shri Mahendra Srivastava, Principal Advisor, TRAI and Dr. Kiran Mehta, Professor and Dean (Finance), Chitkara Business School, Chitkara University, Punjab gave presentations about main features and principle of Digital Economy, stages of evolution of Digital Economy as well as its impact and economics of digitization.

Shri Abhay Savargaonkar, CTO, Global Sales and Network Services, Nokia spoke about technological basis of Digital Economy, role of Information Communication Technologies and infrastructure in the development of Digital Economy. Shri Rakesh Dubey, Deputy General Manager, RBI Lucknow and Shri Binod Kumar, General Manager NABARD spoke about the prospects for the development of Digital Economy in India in various sectors including agriculture and rural development, models of evolution of Digital Economy, regulatory framework for digital financial services and associated infrastructure.

Dr. Arunabha Mukhopadhyay, Professor of Information Technology & Systems Area, IIM Lucknow spoke about the challenges and risk factors of Digital Economy, possible models of coexistence of digital and traditional economic activities, next wave of transformation through Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

Shri P. K. Singh, DDG (SA), Department of Telecom, New Delhi spoke about the security challenges in Digital Economy, increase of cyber frauds, ways to control frauds, steps taken by various stake holders, law enforcement agencies and Government.



Seminar on “Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI and ML) use cases in Telecom and Agriculture” at Hyderabad on 22nd February 2024

Regional Office of TRAI conducted seminar on "Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning-Use Cases in Telecom and Agriculture" at Hyderabad, Telangana on 22nd February 2024. The Seminar was attended by Government officers from DoT, Cyber Police, NIC, STPI, ECIL, CDAC, UIDAI and representatives from RailTel, AAI, BSNL, GMR Airport Developers Ltd., Industry organizations, Consumer Advocacy Groups (CAGs), TSPs etc.



The session started with welcoming dignitaries by Shri V.S. Raju, Joint Advisor, TRAI, RO, Hyderabad. Shri B. Praveen Kumar, Advisor, TRAI, RO, Hyderabad in his welcome address stressed about the advantages of "Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning".

Keynote address was delivered by Shri Chaganti Srinivas, Special DG, DoT, Hyderabad. During the address, he mentioned that the advancement of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning will bring drastic changes in the world and will be very useful in medical, agricultural fields, internal security etc. He also emphasized on real time applications and to explore various use cases.

Dr. Konda Reddy Mopuri, Assistant Professor, Dept. of AI, IITH gave a presentation on "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning and challenges". Shri Mukesh Mangal, DDG(AI&DIU), DOT, New Delhi also gave a presentation on "Curbing Cyber Crime and misuse of telecom resources using Artificial Intelligence".

Shri Jaipal Singh Tomar, Advisor, TRAI, New Delhi gave a presentation on "Regulating Artificial Intelligence Government Initiatives".

Dr. G. Bhaskar, Senior Assistant Director (IT), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad gave a presentation on "Use cases of Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture Sector". Shri Madhusudan Kandasamy, Qualcomm gave a presentation on "Use cases developed by Qualcomm using Artificial Intelligence". Shri Amit Kumar Anand, Head of Regulatory and Corporate Affairs, Nokia Mobile Networks gave a presentation on "Use cases developed by Nokia using Artificial Intelligence".

Shri Srinath Reddy, Founder - Techno Edge Solution Pvt. Ltd. gave his presentation on "Use cases of Artificial Intelligence developed by Startups". Dr. Akansha Kumar, Chief Data Scientist, Reliance Jio Limited also gave a presentation on "Use cases of Artificial Intelligence developed by TSPs".

The participants who attended the seminar gained a lot of insight through the proceedings as it was an important step in highlighting the use cases of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and benefitted from the engaging discussion/interaction during the seminar.

Events

A Letter of Intent signed between TRAI & ICASA (Independent Communications Authority of South Africa) during bilateral meeting headed by Sh. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman-TRAI and Ms Yolisa Kedama, Acting Chairperson, ICASA at the sidelines of GSMA MWC 24 at Barcelona, Spain for period 26-28th February 2024



Ms. Meenakshi Gupta, Member - TRAI participated in the Women Leaders Roundtable and shared views on 'How to increase the representation, participation, and leadership of women in the digital sector' at GSMA Mobile World Congress 24 at Barcelona, Spain for the period from 26-28th February 2024



Mr. Brendan Carr, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission (FCC), USA visited TRAI for bilateral meeting with Mr. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman-TRAI in presence of Sh. V. Raghunandan, Secretary, TRAI on 23rd February 2024



Telecom Subscriptions

Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st January 2024:

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Million)	633.96	29.75	663.72
Rural Telephone subscribers (Million)	526.75	2.79	529.53
Total Telephone subscribers (Million)	1160.71	32.54	1193.25
Overall Tele-density (%)	83.05	2.33	85.38
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.62	91.44	55.62
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.38	8.56	44.38
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	872.16	38.87	911.03

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in January 2024 were 1050.60 million.

In January 2024, 12.36 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of January 2024, a total of 939.55 million consumers availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

Other Miscellaneous

TRAI released the updated list of panel of Auditors to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) on 14th February 2024, vide which two Auditors M/s Ernst & Young LLP and M/s Haribhakti & Co LLP were added during the month. The total number of auditors empanelled by TRAI to carry out the audit of DAS as on 29th February 2024 is 52.

Consumer Outreach Programmes

TRAI conducted Special Consumer Outreach Programmes (SCOPs)/ Consumer Outreach Programme (COPs) for different sections of the society as under:

S. No.	Place	Date
1	Rangaeddy (Telangana)	29 th February 2024
2	Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh)	27 th February 2024
3	Peilling (Sikkim)	21 st February 2024
4	Waghai (Gujarat)	20 th February 2024
5	Ujire (Karnataka)	20 th February 2024
6	Yamuna Nagar (Haryana)	16 th February 2024
7	Palghar (Maharashtra)	13 th February 2024
8	Suryapet (Telangana)	9 th February 2024
9	Gurugram (Haryana)	8 th February 2024
10	South Andaman (A&N Island)	8 th February 2024
11	Wardha (Maharashtra)	6 th February 2024

PHOTO GALLERY



Consumer Outreach Program at Rangaeddy (Telangana) on 29th February 2024 by RO Hyderabad



Special Consumer Outreach Program for girl students at ISTS Engineering college for women at Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh) on 27th February 2024 by RO Hyderabad



Consumer Outreach Program at Peilling in Sikkim on 21st February 2024 by RO Kolkata



Special Consumer Outreach Program in tribal area of Waghai town in Dangs District of Gujarat LSA on 20th February 2024 by RO Jaipur



Consumer Outreach Program at Ujire (Karnataka) on 22nd February 24 by RO Bengaluru



**Consumer Outreach Program at Yamuna Nagar (Haryana) on 16th February 2024
by RO Jaipur**



**Consumer Outreach Program at Palghar (Maharashtra) on 13th February.2024
by RO Bengaluru**



**Consumer Outreach Program at Suryapet (Telangana) on 09th February. 2024
by RO Hyderabad**



**Consumer Outreach Program at Gurugram (Haryana) on 08th February 2024
by RO Delhi**



Consumer Outreach Program at Ferrargunj, South Andaman (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) on 08th February, 2024 by RO Kolkata

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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(Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.***

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