TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

E-NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021

Review of Telecom Network Connectivity/Infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh by Dr P. D. Vaghela, Chairman TRAI with Chief Secretary & Telecom Service Providers in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh on 14th October 2021

New Telecom Reforms
(An Article for Information)

Union Cabinet has approved several structural and process reforms in the Telecom sector. These reforms include a redefinition of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), a four-year moratorium on Telecom Service Providers' (TSPs) dues to the government, among others. These Telecom reforms usher in new era for India's digital ambitions. It also provides telecom companies with an option to pay the interest amount arising due to the deferment of payment by way of equity. The reforms demonstrated the government's firm commitment to ensuring healthy growth of the industry.

The Key reforms are as follows:

1. New E-KYC process:
    a) Conversion from prepaid to post-paid and vice-versa using OTP base process.
    b) Self-KYC (S-KYC) as an alternate process for issuing of new mobile connections.
    c) Customer Application Form (CAF) Reforms

2. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Reforms: 100% FDI in automatic route will enable easy expansion of network

3. Bank Guarantee (BG) Reforms: Reduction in the number of bank guarantees and Value make it easier for the business processes.

4. Spectrum related Reforms - Support package, decisions about the future spectrum will enable more certainty for TSPs in the usage of spectrum.

5. SACFA Clearance Simplification: Simplification of SACFA clearance process for installing towers, self-declaration/automated time bound approvals on Saral Sanchar Portal of DoT, will enable TSPs faster rollout of their networks.

6. Addressing Liquidity requirements of TSPs: Easing liquidity and cash flow and help various banks having substantial exposure to the Telecom sector. This enables to spend TSP more money into operations.

7. Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) Reforms: Redefining AGR will enable TSPs to bring in more innovative products and services without burden on license fee on non-telecom revenue.

Detailed information is available on below link:

https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Telecom%20Reforms%202021-booklet%20combined%20as%20on%2003112021_0.pdf

1. Directions

2.1 **TRAI issued a direction to TSP for ensuring compliance with TRAI's Regulations/Directions/Advisories/Orders in respect to tariff Offerings**

The Authority received complaints regarding offering of MNP-specific tariff by TSPs.

As per the Telecommunication Tariff Order no service provider shall, in any manner discriminate between subscribers of the same class and such classification of the subscribers shall not be arbitrary and every classification between subscribers shall be based on intelligible criteria where such criteria shall have a rational nexus to the purpose of the said classification.

After having considered all aspects, and with the objective to ensure transparency, uniformity and protection to subscribers, TRAI directed all telecom service providers on 02.09.2021 to ensure that :-

i) Only the tariffs reported to TRAI are offered through their channel partners/distributors/retailers/third-party apps/etc. and;

ii) all tariff offers comply with extant TRAI Regulations/Directions/Orders/etc. issued in the regard as, where the TSP's name/brand is used for marketing/offering/selling products and services, the responsibility of ensuring compliance of TRAI's regulatory guidelines/provisions shall remain with the TSP.

Full text of the direction may be accessed from the below link

https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Direction_02092021.pdf

2. Orders

2.2   TRAI issued an Order dated 20.09.2021 regarding designation of the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), Department of Telecommunication Government of India as Testing and Certification Agency for Conditional Access System (CAS) and Subscriber Management Systems (SMS).

The TEC shall: -

(a)   carry out overall administration, coordination and execution of testing and certification of Conditional Access System (CAS) and Subscriber Management System (SMS) as per the requirements specified in Schedule IX of the Interconnection Regulations 2017;

(b)   notify and maintain Test Schedules and Test Procedures (TSTP) in relation to the requirements specified under schedule IX;

(c)   empanel/declare the list of accredited testing labs that fulfil the requirements for carrying out the testing as per the defined Test Schedules and Test Procedures (TSTP);

(d)   provide Certification for all products tested and certified by the accredited testing labs, and;

(e)   maintain the version and deployment details of Conditional Access System (CAS) and Subscriber Management System (SMS) deployed in India.

https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Order_CAS_SMS_20092021.pdf

3. Important Events

Mr. V Raghunandan, Secretary, TRAI, Dr. Elsadig Gamaledin, DG, Telecommunication and Posts Regulatory Authority (TPRA) and Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, Counsellor, Embassy of India, Sudan participated in a five-day online capacity building program held on 20th September 2021.

4. Telecom Subscriptions

4.1   Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st August 2021.

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	650.39	20.91	671.31
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	536.33	1.95	538.28
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	**1186.72**	**22.86**	**1209.58**
Overall Tele-density (%)	86.78	1.67	88.45
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.81	91.49	55.50
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.19	8.51	44.50
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Millions)	789.18	24.29	813.47

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in August 2021 were 991.71 million.

In August 2021, 11.28 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of August 2021, a total of 628.15 million consumers have availed of the MNP facility since its implementation.

4.2   Panel of Auditors (Updated List) to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) dated 15th September 2021

TRAI releases 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 15th September 2021.

https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Audit_list_15092021.pdf

5. Events

5.1 The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised during September 2021 through the online platform:

Sl.No.	Place	Date
1	Goa	3rd September 2021
2	Maharashtra	8th September 2021
3	Agartala, Tripura	14th September 2021
4	Odisha	15th September 2021
5	Kerala	23rd September 2021
6	Gangtok, Sikkim	28th September 2021
7	Punjab	29th September 2021
8	Uttar Pradesh	30th September 2021

PHOTO GALLERY

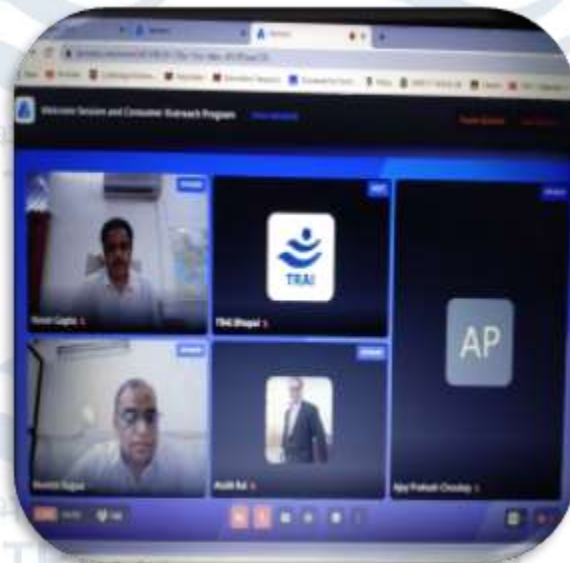**CoP for Agartala, Tripura on 14th September 2021**

CoP for Odisha on 15th September 2021

CoP for Gangtok, Sikkim on 28th September 2021

CoP for Punjab on 29th September 2021

CoP for Uttar Pradesh on 30th September 2021

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
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, (Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.

We are also on Facebook! Join us!

https://www.facebook.com/TRAI/

We are also on Twitter! follow us! *TRAI@TRAI*