

# TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

## E-Newsletter



**JUNE 2020**



**TRAI participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific Telecommunity Web Dialogue on "COVID-19: Responses from Asia-Pacific on 18.05.2020"**

# 1. Recommendations

## 1.1 Recommendations on ‘Ensuring Adequate Numbering Resources for Fixed Line and Mobile Services’ issued on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

A reference was received from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019, wherein it was requested to furnish recommendations on the strategies of National Digital Communications Policy 2018 which inter alia includes ‘Ensuring adequate numbering resources, by developing a unified numbering plan for fixed line and mobile services’.

Accordingly, a Consultation Paper on ‘Developing a Unified Numbering Plan for Fixed Line and Mobile Services’ was issued by TRAI on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 seeking views/comments from stakeholders. In this regard, an Open House Discussion (OHD) was also held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at TRAI, New Delhi.

Based on the comments/inputs received from the stakeholders, discussion held during OHD and on its own analysis, TRAI finalized its Recommendations on ‘Ensuring Adequate Numbering Resources for Fixed Line and Mobile Services’. The full recommendations can be accessed from the following link:

[https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations\\_29052020.pdf](https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_29052020.pdf)



## 1.2 Recommendations on “Platform Services offered by DTH Operators” issued on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

TRAI's has received back reference from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 on TRAI's Recommendations on “Platform Services offered by DTH Operators” dated 13.11.2019. In response, TRAI has forwarded its recommendations on “Platform Services offered by DTH Operators” on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020, reiterating its earlier recommendations.

[https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation\\_backreference\\_26052020.PDF](https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_backreference_26052020.PDF)



## 2. Open House Discussion

### 2.1 First online Open House Discussion (OHD) on "Draft Telecommunication Tariff (65<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Order 2020" on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020

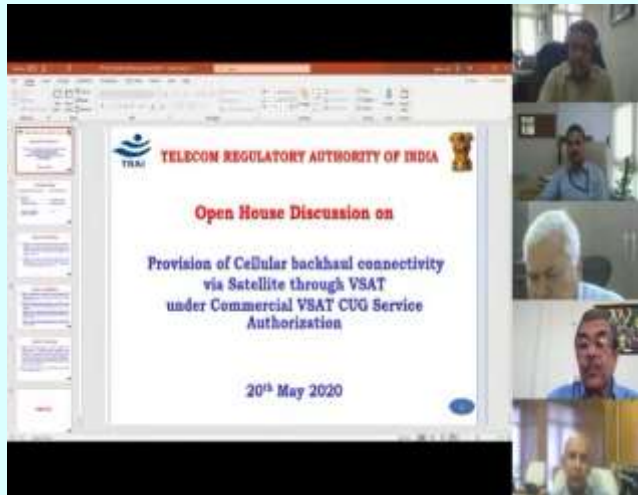
TRAI conducted First online Open House Discussion (OHD) on "Draft Telecommunication Tariff (65<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Order 2020" on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 in New Delhi through video conferencing.



### 2.2 OHD on Consultation Paper on 'Provision of Cellular backhaul connectivity via Satellite through VSAT under Commercial VSAT CUG Service Authorization'

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) convened an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 through Video Conferencing on Consultation Paper on 'Provision of Cellular backhaul connectivity via Satellite through VSAT under Commercial VSAT CUG Service Authorization'.

The OHD was convened on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020, to obtain valuable inputs of the concerned stakeholders. Number of stakeholders including, telecom service providers, industry associations, technology companies etc. participated in the open house discussion. There was overwhelming response for conducting the OHD through video conferencing during the Covid Pandemic.



### 3. Consultations

#### 3.1 TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on "Regulation on International Mobile Roaming Services" on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

The telecom sector is characterised by dynamic tariff policies which are reflected in variety of tariff plans, frequency of change in tariffs, bundled offerings etc. Though, this dynamism on one side is responsible for innovative product offerings to suit the requirements of each subscriber, on the other hand, the same may result in bill shocks to subscribers due to incorrect understanding or lack of awareness of tariff conditions. While, this is true for all telecom services, this is especially true for International Mobile Roaming Services (IMR Services). The uniqueness of IMR Service vis-a-vis other alternatives implies a de facto monopoly of the Home Operator and raises concerns of any potential abuse of monopoly power resulting in adverse consequences for the consumer, be it in the form of abusive tariffs (including both higher rates and adverse-related conditions of the usage) or a general lack of transparency in the communication of tariffs leading to bill shocks. The TRAI has also been intermittently receiving a significant number of complaints from the individual consumers relating to bill shocks due to usage of IMR Services.

Accordingly, it has been decided to review the regulatory framework relating to IMR Services. The consultation exercise is focused on identifying specific causes of bill shocks to consumers while availing the IMR Services, to evaluate the extant regulatory framework for adequacy to deal with the issue, to evaluate the range of voluntary policies and measures adopted by TSPs in India to prevent instances of bill shocks to their respective subscribers, and the need for revision of regulatory framework and to make suitable changes in the regulatory framework.

As part of the consultative process, the Consultation Paper has been uploaded on the TRAI website. Written comments on the consultation paper are invited from the stakeholders by 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020. Counter-comments, if any, by 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020.



[https://tra.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_26052020.pdf](https://tra.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_26052020.pdf)

## 4. Other Information

### 4.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless + Wireline)
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	643.24	17.98	661.23
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	517.34	2.28	519.62
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	1160.59	20.26	1180.84
Overall Tele-density (%)	86.15	1.50	87.66
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	55.42%	88.76%	56.00%
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	44.58%	11.24%	44.00%
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	662.04	19.07	681.11

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in February, 2020 were 986.42 million.

In the month of February, 2020, 6.18 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. Till the end of February, 2020, a total of 481.58 million consumers have availed MNP facility since its implementation.

**4.2 TRAI has issued an updated list of Panel of Auditors to carry out audit of Digital Addressable System (DAS) on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

***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](http://www.trai.gov.in)***

***MahanagarDoorsancharBhawan, JawaharLal 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](https://twitter.com/TRAI)***