



# TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



## **E-NEWSLETTER FOR TRAI REGISTERED CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS FOR FEBRUARY, 2018**



**Chairman, TRAI addressing the gathering at the Open House Discussion held on 18.01.2018 on the "Auction of Spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz and 3400-3600 MHz bands"**

**OHD/WORKSHOPS**



**Chairman, TRAI, Senior Officers and various other stakeholders at the Open House Discussion held on 17.01.2018 on Consultation Paper on Inputs for Formulation of National Telecom Policy- 2018**





**Chairman, TRAI, Senior Officers and various other stakeholders at the Open House Discussion was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at New Delhi on the Consultation Paper on 'Auction of Spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz and 3400-3600 MHz Bands'**



**Regional Workshop held on 29.01.2018 at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on Capacity Building of Consumer Advocacy Groups (CAGs) and Interactive Session on e-KYC for Telecom Consumers and Digital Payment Systems**





**Seminar on “Consumer Protection in the Digital Era” held at Jaipur (Rajasthan) on 19.01.2018**

## 1. Recommendations:

### 1.1 Recommendations on “In-Flight Connectivity” dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) vide its letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017 had communicated that there is a proposal to introduce In-Flight Connectivity (IFC) for voice, data and video services over Indian airspace for domestic, international and overflying flights in Indian Air Space. DoT had also requested TRAI to furnish its recommendations on licensing terms and conditions for provision of IFC for voice, data and video services and associated issues such as entry fee, license fee, spectrum related issues including usage charges and method of allocation and other conditions.

2. In this regard, a Consultation Paper on ‘In-Flight Connectivity’ was released on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 seeking comments of stakeholders. An OHD on the issues concerned was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

3. After analysing the comments received from stakeholders during the consultation and the open house discussions, TRAI has finalized its Recommendations on ‘In-Flight Connectivity’ and sent it to the Government on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The highlights of the recommendations are as follows:

- a) Both, Internet and MCA service should be permitted as In-Flight Connectivity (IFC) in the Indian airspace.
- b) The operation of MCA services should be permitted with minimum height restriction of 3000 meters in Indian airspace for its compatibility with terrestrial mobile networks.
- c) Internet Services through Wi-Fi onboard should be made available when electronic devices are permitted to use only in flight/airplane mode.
- d) A separate category of “IFC Service Provider” should be created to permit IFC services in Indian airspace. The IFC service provider should be required to get itself registered with the DoT and it need not necessarily be in Indian entity.
- e) The IFC service provider be permitted to provide IFC services, after entering into an arrangement with Unified Licensee having appropriate authorization.
- f) If IFC service provider partners with Unified Licensee having Internet Service (Category ‘A’) authorization for the provision of Internet services onboard as part of IFC, then (i) If the licensee also has the Commercial VSAT CUG service authorization, it can provide the satellite links also. Alternatively, (ii) Unified Licensee with National Long Distance (NLD) service authorization can provide the satellite links.
- g) The regulatory requirements should be same for both Indian registered and foreign registered airlines for offering IFC services in Indian airspace.
- h) The deployment of a gateway in India provides an effective mechanism to lawfully intercept and monitor the in-cabin internet traffic while the aircraft is in Indian airspace. Therefore, the onboard Internet traffic must be routed to a Satellite Gateway on Indian soil. Such an obligation should be imposed regardless of whether the satellite in question is an Indian Satellite System or not.
- i) The IFC service provider should be permitted to use either INSAT systems (Indian Satellite System or foreign satellite capacity leased through DoS) or foreign satellites outside INSAT systems in the Indian airspace.

- j) To promote the adoption of IFC services in Indian airspace, the IFC service provider should be imposed a flat annual Licence Fee of token amount of Rs. 1. However, the same may be reviewed and amended at a later stage, if need be.
- k) Spectrum neutral approach should be adopted subject to the condition that the frequency bands have been harmonized and coordinated for their use at the ITU. It would facilitate the IFC services in all the bands (L, Ku and Ka) in which IFC services are currently being provided.
- l) The framework recommended for IFC services in Indian airspace should be made applicable to all types of aircrafts such as commercial airlines, business jets, executive aircrafts etc.

## **2. Directions**

### **2.1 Direction dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 regarding extension of the validity period of UPCs issued to the subscribers of M/s Reliance Communication Ltd., pursuant to the direction dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017.**

A Direction was issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 to MNPSPs, TSPs so as to facilitate Mobile Number Portability of subscribers of M/s Reliance Communications Limited (RCL) consequent upon to discontinuation of 2G/GSM services by M/s RCL in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, UP(East), UP(West), Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala licensed service areas and upgrading of network from CDMA to LTE/4G in 800 MHz band in Delhi, Rajasthan, UP(West), Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, West Bengal, Gujarat and Kolkata licensed service areas consequent to conclusion of merger of licenses of M/s Sistema Shyam Telecommunications Limited into M/s Reliance Communications Limited.

Through the Direction dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, M/s RCL was, inter-alia, directed to keep all UPCs generated pursuant to the direction dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017 and UPCs that are expiring on the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017, valid till 23:59:59 hours of the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018.

### **2.2 Directions dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd. (RTL) and M/s Reliance Communications Ltd. (RCL) to refund the unspent balance and security deposits of their mobile subscribers.**

Consequent upon closure of 2G/GSM, CDMA services and discontinuation of voice services in all the licensed services, TRAI received large number of complaints from the subscribers of M/s RCL and M/s RTL regarding refund of balance amount left with M/s RCL and M/s RTL in the form of recharge or vouchers / plans in their prepaid mobile account and non-refund of security deposits for the post paid mobile accounts. In order to protect the interest of the consumers at large, TRAI directed M/s RCL and M/s RTL on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to refund the unspent balance and security deposits to its mobile subscribers.

## **3. Regulations**

### **3.1 The Telecommunication Interconnection Regulations, 2018**

TRAI has issued “The Telecommunication Interconnection Regulation, 2018” (1 of 2018) on 01.01.2018. These regulations came into effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2018.

Through these Regulations, the Authority has mandated that every service provider shall, within thirty days of receipt of request from a service provider, enter into interconnection agreement, on non-discriminatory basis, with such service provider. The Authority has also laid down a framework for provisioning and augmentation of ports at POIs, which stipulates a step-by-step process for provisioning of ports at POIs.

### **3.2 The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Fourteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2018**

TRAI has issued “The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Fourteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2018” (2 of 2018) on 12.01.2018. These regulations came into effect from the 01.02.2018.

Through these Regulations, the termination charges payable by an International Long Distance Operator (ILDO) to the access provider in whose network the call terminates will be reduced from Rs.0.53(paise fifty three only) per minute to Rs.0.30 (paise thirty only) per minute.

### **3.3. The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (03 of 2018)**

TRAI has issued “The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (03 of 2018)” on 31.01.2018 thereby reducing the 'Per Port Transaction Charge' of Rupees Nineteen to Rupees Four for each successful porting.

2. “The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge Regulations, 2009 (9 of 2009)” was notified on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 prescribed Rs. 19/- as 'Per Port Transaction Charge' and “The Telecommunication Tariff (Forty-Ninth Amendment) Order, 2009” dated 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009, prescribed the Per Port Transaction charge Rs. 19/- as ceiling which was applicable for the porting customers.



3. The Telecommunication Tariff (Forty-Ninth Amendment) Order, 2009 prescribed the ceiling of Per Port Transaction Charge leviable from subscriber by the recipient operator through “The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge Regulations, 2009 (9 of 2009)” (as amended from time to time). Now, with notification of this amendment to the aforesaid Regulations, the ceiling of charges leviable from subscriber stands automatically reduced to Rupees Four. However, recipient operators are free to charge a lesser amount from the subscriber for Mobile Number Portability.

## **4. Consultation Papers**

### **4.1 Consultation Paper on “Inputs for Formulation of National Telecom Policy-2018”**

The Department of Telecommunications, through its letter dated 21.08.2017, requested TRAI to suggest its policy inputs for formulation of National Telecom Policy-2018 (NTP-2018). Upon receiving the Government’s request, TRAI prepared an initial draft consisting of a range of issues proposed to be addressed in NTP-2018 and shared the same with stakeholders for preliminary discussions. Based on preliminary discussions with various stakeholders including telecom service providers, telecom equipment manufacturers, industry associations, consulting firms, cloud service providers etc., the Authority prepared draft inputs for formulating the NTP-2018 and issued a Consultation Paper on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 to seek views of stakeholders in line with the technological advancements in the sector and customer aspirations for digital services. Through this Consultation Paper, the Authority intends to seek views of stakeholders on the inputs for formulating National Telecom Policy-2018.

## 5. Other Information

### 5.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>No. of Wireless subscribers (in Millions)</b>	<b>No. of Wire-line Subscribers (in Millions)</b>	<b>No. of Total subscribers (Wireless + Wire-line) (in Millions)</b>
Urban Subscription	668.44	19.81	688.25
Rural Subscription	499.00	3.42	502.42
Total Subscription	1167.44	23.23	1190.67
Overall Tele-density	90.11	1.79	91.90
Share of Urban Subscription	57.26%	85.28%	57.80%
Share of Rural Subscription	42.74%	14.72%	42.20%
No. of Broadband Subscribers	345.01	17.86	362.87

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in December, 2017 were 1,015.52 million.

In the month of December, 2017, 7.43 million requests were made for MNP. So far 338.41 million consumers have availed MNP facility.

## **6. TRAI EVENTS**

1	Akola (Maharashtra)	10.01.2018
2	Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh)	18.01.2018
3	Tiruchirapalli (Tamilnadu)	19.01.2018
4	Haldia (West Bengal)	31.01.2018



**PHOTO GALLERY**



***CoP at Akola (Maharashtra) held on 10.01.2018***



***CoP at Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh) held on 18.01.2018***



***CoP at Tiruchirapalli (Tamilnadu) held on 19.01.2018***



***CoP at Haldia (West Bengal) held on 31.01.2018***

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

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