TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI delivered the Inaugural address in the conference on Rating of Buildings or Area for digital connectivity on 16th November 2022

ANNIVERSARY

TRAI's portal to grant exemption from SMS Termination charges



The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 (TCCCPR, 2018) deals with curbing of Spam or Unsolicited Commercial.

As per these regulations, the awareness messages given on the instructions of Government or Statutory bodies would be considered as service messages.

Regulation 35 of these regulations provides that there shall be no charge on:-

- a) any message transmitted by or on the directions of the Central Government or State Government.
- b) any message transmitted by or on the directions of bodies established under the Constitution.
- c) any message transmitted by or on the directions of the Authority.

In line with the above provisions, TRAI grants exemption from SMS Terminating charges up to 5 paisa to government entities for sending message of public interest. That exemption may only be granted to Government bodies i.e., Central Government, State Government and bodies established under the constitution. Such entities apply online through the portal for new exemption or renewal of exemption against the headers registered with TSPs, as per the provisions of TCCCPR 2018.

Exemption would be given if the purpose of sending messages is related to sending citizen centric messages and creating awareness for the public such as messages about campaigns related to Polio, AIDS, Swine Flu, Women Safety, etc. No exemption would be given to State or Central Government departments, who are charging customers for sending messages for commercial purposes. The period of exemption would be for one year at a time.

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Seminar

TRAI organized a Seminar on "Emerging Trends in Broadcasting Sector" on 3rd October 2022.



TRAI, on 3rd October 2022 organized a Seminar on "Emerging Trends in Broadcasting Sector" on the platform provided by the India Mobile Congress, 2022. The seminar was organized in the backdrop of the recent technological advancements in the sector and their impact.

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI and was graced by the presence of Shri Thiru. T. Mano Thangaraj, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services Department, Government of Tamil Nadu; Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, MIB; and Shri K. Rajaraman, Secretary, DoT. In addition, industry leaders and top executives viz. Shri Avinash Pandey, CEO ABP Networks; Shri Ashish Pherwani, Senior Partner and Head Media and Entertainment Advisory group EY; Shri Prashant Pandey, CEO Radio Mirchi; and Shri Rahul Vats, CRO-Airtel amongst others shared their perspective on the subject.

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Open House Discussion

Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Consultation Paper on "Renewal of Multi-System Operators (MSOs) Registration"



Digitalization of the Indian broadcasting sector began in year 2012 and was completed across the country by March 2017. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB) issued the first registrations to Multi System Operators (MSOs) during the DAS implementation in June 2012, which becomes due for renewal/extension in June 2022. The Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, however, do not mention provisions for the renewal of MSO registrations. In view of this, the Authority has received a reference from MIB seeking recommendations on the issues pertaining to the MSO renewal procedure.

Accordingly, TRAI released a Consultation Paper on "Renewal of Multi-System Operators (MSOs) on 20th July 2022. The Consultation paper aims to seek comments of the stakeholders on relevant issues pertaining to the renewal of MSO registration including the fee to be paid for such renewal. An open Open House Discussion (OHD) was held through video conferencing on 19th October 2022.

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Telecom Subscriptions

Telecom Subscription Data as on 30th September 2022:

| Particulars | Wireless | Wireline | Total |
|---|----------|----------|---------|
| Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions) | 627.14 | 24.48 | 651.61 |
| Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions) | 518.31 | 1.99 | 520.30 |
| Total Telephone subscribers (Millions) | 1145.45 | 26.47 | 1171.92 |
| Overall Tele-density (%) | 82.94 | 1.92 | 84.86 |
| Share of Urban Subscription (%) | 54.75 | 92.47 | 55.60 |
| Share of Rural Subscription (%) | 45.25 | 7.53 | 44.40 |
| No. of Broadband Subscribers (Millions) | 785.14 | 31.09 | 816.24 |

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in September 2022 were 1013.97 million.

In September 2022, 11.97 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of September 2022, a total of 748.11 million consumers have availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

Miscellaneous

TRAI released a report on Drive tests on 17th October 2022:

TRAI released a report on Drive tests on 17th October 2022 conducted in 15 cities and surrounding areas viz, Jalandhar, Ambala, Aizawl, Contai, Imphal, Kishanganj, Port-Blair, Bilaspur, Gwalior, Meerut, Ahmednagar, Chikmagalur, Warangal, Cuttack, Coimbatore, 2 Highways Meerut-Agra, Gwalior-Guna, & one Rail Route Raigarh to Dongargarh conducted in the quarter ending June 2022.

The Drive tests were conducted to assess the network quality provided by cellular mobile telephone service providers for voice and data services.

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The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were assessed for the networks of all telecom service providers operating in the region. KPIs for voice services are Coverage; Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR); Drop Call Rate; Block Call Rate, Handover Success Rate; Rx Quality. KPIs for data services are Download and Upload Throughputs, Web Browsing Delay, Video Streaming Delay and Latency.

Panel of Auditors (Updated List) for the audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) dated 20th October 2022:

TRAI released updated list of the 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 20th October 2022.

Consumer Outreach Programmes

On its Silver Jubilee, TRAI initiated Special Consumer Outreach Programmes/Consumer Outreach Programmes (CoP) for different sections of the society as under:

| S. No. | Place | Date |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Bhilwara (Rajasthan) | 11 th October 2022 |
| 2 | Maheshwar (Madhya Pradesh) | 19th October 2022 |
| 3 | Hosur (Tamil Nadu) | 20 th October 2022 |

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PHOTO GALLERY



Special Consumer Outreach Program for *divyangjan* at Bhilwara, Rajasthan held on 11th October 2022, conducted by Regional Office, Jaipur



Special Consumer Outreach Program for skill development for weavers at Maheshwar (Madhya Pradesh) held on 19th October 2022, conducted by Regional Office, Bhopal

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Consumer Outreach Program at Hosur, Tamil Nadu held on 21st October 2022 for students, conducted by Regional Office, Hyderabad

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!

We are also on Twitter! follow us! <u>TRAI@TRAI</u>

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