

# TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



### NEWS LETTER: Vol. VI/2016

#### June 2016

#### **NEWS LETTER FOR CAGs**

This newsletter brings you the information and developments that have taken place during the month of June, 2016.

#### **Directions:**

1. Direction dated  $23^{rd}$  June 2016 with regard to extension of the validity of Unique Porting Codes (UPCs) [expired on  $31^{st}$  May 2016 pursuant to direction dated  $25^{th}$  April 2016] issued to the subscribers of M/s Videocon Telecommunication Limited consequent to closure of its commercial services in Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, UP(East) and UP(West) licensed Service areas with effect from 11th May 2016.

Pursuant to spectrum trading guidelines, M/s Videocon Telecommunication Limited (M/s VTL) entered into an agreement with M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd. to trade right to use the entire 1800 MHz spectrum allotted to it. It had informed the Authority that it would discontinue its commercial services in Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, UP (East) and UP (West) licensed service areas. The Authority had issued direction dated 25th April 2016 and 6th May 2016 directing M/s VTL to generate unique porting codes (UPCs) for all its subscribers in Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, UP (East) and UP (West) licensed service areas and keep all UPCs generated consequent to the said direction valid till 31st May 2016. M/s VTL informed that their remaining subscribers could not port their numbers due to expiry of UPC and requested the Authority to extend the validity of UPCs expired on 31st May 2016 by one month so that remaining subscribers may avail the opportunity to port out their mobile numbers to the operator of their choice. In the interest of subscribers, the Authority decided to extend the validity period of UPCs generated pursuant to the direction of the authority dated 25.04.2016.

Therefore, the Authority issued direction on 23 June, 2016 facilitating of mobile number portability for remaining subscriber of M/s VTL by extending the validity of UPCs generated till 20.06.16.

2. Direction dated 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016 with regard to closure of CDMA services and rollout of LTE services in 800 MHz band by M/s Reliance Communications Limited in Tamil Nadu (including Chennai), Karnataka, Kerala and Rajasthan licensed service areas w.e.f. 6th July, 2016, consequent to liberalization of 800 MHz spectrum and extension of validity of Unique Porting Codes generated pursuant to direction dated 20th May, 2016

DoT had approved the liberalization of the spectrum held by RCL in 800 MHz in Tamil Nadu (including Chennai), Karnataka, Kerala and Rajasthan Licensed service areas w.e.f. the 1st June 2016. RCL informed Authority regarding planned closure of its CDMA services with effect from midnight of 06th July 2016 in these licensed service areas.

The Authority through its earlier directions dated 20th May 2016 had directed M/s RCL to generate unique porting codes (UPCs) for all its subscribers in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Kolkata, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mumbai, UP (East) & UP (West) Licensed service areas and keep UPCs generated pursuant to the said direction and UPCs generated prior to the date of issue of the direction valid till 23:59:59 hours of 30th June 2016.

Pursuant to the direction dated 20th May 2016, M/s RCL requested the Authority to extend the validity of UPCs, which were to expire on 30th June 2016, to facilitate their CDMA subscribers to upgrade to 4G or GSM service of M/s RCL or to port out to any service provider/technology of their choice. Due to its significant number of CDMA subscribers who are yet to exercise their porting option and in the interest of subscribers, the Authority has decided to extend the validity period of UPCs generated pursuant to the Direction of the Authority dated 20th May 2016.

Hence, the Authority has issued direction on 24th June 2016 to M/s RCL, Telecom Service Providers and MNPSPs, in order to facilitate mobile number portability for subscribers of M/s RCL and extended the validity of UPCs generated till 16th August 2016.

# 3. Letter dated 21.06.2016 to 48 Pay Broadcasters and 15 major MSOs in r/o re-transmission of signals of TV channels through Digital Addressable System (DAS) only in DAS notified areas'

It is mandatory for every cable operator to transmit or re-transmit programmes of any channel in an encrypted form through digital addressable system in such cities (areas) from such date as specified in the notification issued by Central Government under sub-section 1 of section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (7 of 1995). As such, any transmission or retransmission of TV channels in analog mode in DAS notified areas is in contravention to the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (7 of 1995). Accordingly, as soon as it was brought to the notice of TRAI that some multi system operators are still re-transmitting signals of TV channels in analog/un-encrypted mode in the areas notified by the Government of India for provisioning of cable TV services through digital addressable systems (DAS), 15 major MSOS have been directed to ensure provisioning of signals of TV channels only through digital addressable system in DAS notified areas wherever the cut-off date as provided in the relevant notification issued by Government of India under section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (7 of 1995) is over. All the broadcasters of pay channels have also been directed not to provide signals of TV channels to such MSOs who are re-transmitting signals of TV channels in analog/un-encrypted mode in DAS notified areas without any authority of law and in contravention of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (7 of 1995).

#### **Regulations :**

# 1. the Reporting System on Accounting Separation Regulations, 2016 on dated $10^{\text{th}}$ June 2016.

The TRAI issued "The Reporting System on Accounting Separation Regulations, 2016" on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The Regualtion was issued by replacing 'The Reporting System on Accounting Separation Regulations, 2012'. The Accounting Separation Regulations 2012 was introduced four years back. In developments since and order to capture taken 2012 to overcome difficulties/concerns with regard to the requirements/reporting under Regulation 2012, process of reviewing Regulation was initiated on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and a notice was uploaded on TRAI's website inviting comments from the stakeholders on the possible areas which need relook and revision. The draft Accounting Separation Regulations 2016 was uploaded on the TRAI's website for stakeholder's comments.

The Reporting system on Accounting Separation Regulations, 2016'after taking into account stakeholder's comments and thereof was issued on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The major changes made in Accounting Separation Regulations, 2016 are:

- Merger of Access (Full Mobility) and Access Service (WLL) as Access Service (Wireless).
- In the Accounting Separation Regulations 2016, separate reporting for Tower Business sevice, Dark Fiber service and Cable Landing

Station Service has been done away and are now captured under other specified telecom services.

- Separate reporting for postpaid segment and prepaid segment under Access Services has been discontinued.
- Provision has been made to bring uniformity in reporting for reports based on Replacement Cost Accounting.
- Submission time of reports has been increased from six months to seven months.

TRAI has also issued guidelines on Accounting Separation Regulations 2016 which contains broad methodology and principles to be followed by telecom service providers while preparing reports under the Accounting Separating Regulations 2016.

**Consultation Papers:** 

#### A. Telecom:

# 1. Consultation Paper dated, 6th June 2016 on In-Building Access by Telecom Service Providers.

Technological developments are enhancing demand for telecom services (both wireless and wireline). Due to ever-increasing urbanization i.e. rural population moving to urban areas for economic opportunities, there is a huge pressure on the urban areas for infrastructure development. Therefore, a robust telecom infrastructure is indispensable for providing reliable services to the consumers.

2. The Authority in the past has dealt with many infrastructures related issues, however, there are issues related to In-building access that are still faced by the TSPs. There is a requirement to evolve a framework applicable to inbuilding facilities to enable the telecom operators to obtain efficient access on reasonable terms and conditions. Therefore, the Authority has *suo-motu* released a Consultation Paper on 'In-building Access by Telecom Service Providers' on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016. In the Consultation Paper, issues related to In-building Telecom infrastructure have been discussed.

#### 2. Consultation Paper on Cloud Computing:

TRAI issued Consultation Paper on Cloud Computing on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016 for seeking the comments of stakeholders. In cloud computing, resources such as computing power & infrastructure, application platforms, and business processes are provided through the internet as general utilities to users in an on-demand fashion. A consumer can access and use these resources and services from anywhere and anytime through a internet

connection. The end user may not be aware of the equipment that is being used to provide him this service. Business enterprises are now increasingly seeking to reshape their business models to gain benefits from this new paradigm of resource sharing.

With a view to bring out all relevant aspects of the issues and to provide a suitable platform for discussions, TRAI has initiated this consultation paper to engage the industry and all the stakeholders. While examining the various dimensions and area, the following key issues are being discussed in the paper:

Regulatory framework for Cloud Computing

- Security over the Cloud
- Cost benefit Analysis
- Quality of Service of the Cloud Services
- Inter-operability amongst the cloud players
- Incentivisation for conceptualization and implementation of India based Cloud Services
- Legal framework for multiple Jurisdictions/ Areas of operation
- Implementation Strategies of Cloud Services in Government (Central and States/UTs) Organizations and other strategic networks.

# 3. Consultation Paper on "Review of Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Services Licence"

TRAI received a reference from the Department of Telecommunications for review of the terms and conditions for issue of fresh licences for Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Services (UMS) and for migration of existing licenses.

- i) Keeping in view the changes in technology and the resultant new uses applications and service delivery scenarios, there is a need to review the technical specifications, financial terms and conditions, scope and guidelines for Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Services (UMS) and licence conditions.
- ii) TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on "Review of Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Services Licence" on 14.06.2016 seeking views of the stakeholders on many significant issues i.e. licensing framework for Voice Mail/Audiotex/UMS, technical specifications, financial terms & conditions including revenue share with licensor, period of licence and migration terms for existing licenses etc.

#### 4. Consultation Paper on "Internet Telephony (VoIP)" issued on 22.06.2016

 i) Internet Telephony has been permitted to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in restricted manner under ISP licensing conditions issued by Government in October 2007. As per ISPs licensing provisions, there is no restriction on PCto-PC Internet Telephony calls. PC or adapter can be used to call PSTN/PLMN abroad; however Internet Telephony calls from such devices to Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)/Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) in India are not permitted under ISP license. ISPs are also not allowed to have interconnection with PSTN/PLMN networks.

- ii) The present Licensing framework permits Unified Access Service Licensees (UASL), Cellular Mobile Telecom Service (CMTS) Licensees and Unified Licensees to provide unrestricted Internet Telephony. Licenses further permits that while providing Internet Telephony service, the Licensee may interconnect Internet Telephony network with PSTN/PLMN/GMPCS (Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite Network. Despite of the fact that these licensees were allowed to provide unrestricted Internet Telephony, the service has not taken off in the country.
- iii) The objective of this consultation paper (CP) is to identify issues in providing Internet Telephony Services and address them. Some of the important issues are allocation of telephone numbers, Interconnection, Interconnection Usage charges, Quality of Service and access to Emergency etc.
- iv) The Consultation Paper raises the following main issues:
  - What should be the additional entry fee, Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) and Financial Bank Guarantee (FBG) for Internet Service providers if they are also allowed to provide unrestricted Internet Telephony?
  - What should be the termination charge when call is terminating into Internet telephony network?
  - What should be the termination charge for the calls originated from Internet Telephony Network and terminated into the wire-line and wireless Network?
  - How to ensure that users of International Internet Telephony calls pay applicable International termination charges?
  - Should the last mile for an Internet telephony subscriber be the public Internet irrespective of where the subscriber is currently located as long as the PSTN leg abides by all the interconnection rules and regulations concerning NLDO and ILDO?
  - What should be the framework for allocation of numbering resource for Internet Telephony services?
  - Is it possible to provide location information to the police station when the subscriber is making Internet Telephony call to Emergency number? If yes, how?

#### **B. Broadcasting:**

#### 1. Consultation Paper on 'Issues related to Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in India' issued on 24.06.2016

TRAI, on 24.06.2016, released a Consultation Paper on 'Issues related to Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in India". This Consultation Paper examines the existing terrestrial TV broadcasting scenario with an objective to evaluate the ongoing digitization efforts in the light of international practices adopted for such digital migration. The following are the broad objectives of the consultation.

- > To develop and suggest a road map for the transition to Digital terrestrial TV transmission/ Mobile TV transmission and also suggest the timelines for switching off the existing analogue transmission.
- To examine probable models for implementation of DTT in the country keeping in view the availability of multiple TV distribution platforms
- To examine the feasibility of participation of the private sector in the growth of India terrestrial broadcasting ecosystem
- To broadly assess the spectrum utilization for existing and future digital terrestrial broadcasting services.

**Other Information:** 

#### 1. DND Services Mobile App.

TRAI released 'DND Services' Mobile App for managing Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 and developed this App for easy registration of UCC Complaints with the service providers. The consumer can also check the status of his complaint by availing this App. The app is downloaded from the Google App store and Mobile Seva App store free of cost. The links for the apps are given as <a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.trai.dnd&he=en">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.trai.dnd&he=en</a> & <a href="https://apps.mgov.in/descp.do?appid=1087">https://apps.mgov.in/descp.do?appid=1087</a>.

#### 2. Drive Tests :

The Independent Drive Tests in Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhopal, Ranchi, Trivandrum and Ahmadabad have been conducted during the month of May-June 2016. The report of Independent Drive Test for Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kanpur, Hyderabad, Ahmadabad, Bhopal & Chandigarh service areas have been released on TRAI's website during the month of June 2016. The reports of other service areas are being published.

#### 3. Telecom Subscription Data as on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2016:

Particulars	No. of Wireless subscribers (in Millions)	No. of Wire- line Subscribers (in Millions)	No. of Total subscribers (Wireless + Wire-line) (in Millions)
Urban Subscription	586.41	20.80	607.21
Rural Subscription	447.84	4.23	452.08
Total Subscription	1034.25	25.04	1059.29
Overall Tele-density	81.35	1.97	83.32
Share of Urban Subscription	56.70%	83.107%	57.32%
Share of Rural Subscription	43.30%	16.90%	42.68%
No.of Broadband Subscribers	134.04	17.05	151.09

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in April, 2016 were 934.08 million.

In the month of March, 2016 4.91 million requests have been made for MNP. So far 214.04 million consumers have availed MNP facility.

#### 1. Consumer Outreach Programmes:

In June, 2016 TRAI organized 13 Consumer Outreach Programmes at the following places:

Nainital (Uttarakhand)	03.06.2016
Tiruvannamalai (Tamil Nadu)	15.06.2016
Moga (Punjab)	16.06.2016
Dalhousie (Himachal Pradesh)	17.06.2016
Nagaon (Assam)	17.06.2016
Sangli (Maharashtra)	22.06.2016
Adilabad (Telangana)	23.06.2016
Deoghar (Jharkhand)	27.06.2016
Dhar (Madhya Pradesh)	28.06.2016
Anand (Gujarat)	28.06.2016
Dharwad (Karnataka)	29.06.2016
Faridabad (Haryana)	30.06.2016
Sambalpur (Odisha)	30.06.2016

#### Advertisement released in the month of June, 2016:

TRAI issued advertisements in newspaper across the country on Toll Free number 198, Mobile Data users and "DND SERVICES" Mobile App.







### PHOTO GALLERY

### Launch of Portal and App by TRAI



Lauch of "TRAI Ayalytics Portal" and "TRAI My Speed"App at a function in New Delhi on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016

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### TRAI Interactions with Consumers <u>Regional Workshop for CAGs & Consumer Outreach Programme (CoP)</u>:





Workshop and CoP at Nainital, Uttrakhand held on 03.06.2016





CoP at Dalhosie, Himachal Pradesh held on 17.06.2016





CoP at Moga, Punjab held on 16.06.2016





CoP at Anand, Gujarat held on 28.06.2016



CoP at Sangli, Maharashtra held on 22.06.2016





CoP at Nagaon, Assam held on 17.06.2016





CoP at Dhar, Madhya Pradesh held on 28.06.2016



CoP at Sambalpur, Odisha held on 30.06.2016

Full details of the Directions/Orders, Consultation Paper, Subscription Data, etc as mentioned in this newsletter are available on our website <u>www.trai.gov.in</u>

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