



ASSOCIATION OF UNIFIED TELECOM SERVICE
PROVIDERS OF INDIA

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AUSPI

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I. [SUBSCRIBER FIGURES - FEBRUARY 2012](#)

- ⇒ Total Telephone Subscriber Base reaches 943.49 Million
- ⇒ Wireless Subscription reaches 911.17 Million
- ⇒ Wireless Tele-density reaches 75.42 Million
- ⇒ 7.44 Million Wireless Subscriber added
- ⇒ Broadband subscriber number reaches 13.54 million
- ⇒ Tele-density reaches 78.10%

Source: TRAI

II. [TRAI DIRECTIONS / NOTIFICATION / CONSULTATION PAPER/ LETTERS](#)

- A. On 26th March 2012, TRAI has issued a direction on tariff advertisement by service providers. This direction shall be applicable to all tariff advertisements issued through any medium including printed media, pamphlets, radio, television, internet, e-mails and any other audio-visual electronic media.
- B. On 26th March 2012, TRAI has released Draft Response Paper on 'Exit-Policy for various telecom licenses' seeking comments of stakeholders by 5th April 2012 before submitting its recommendations to the Government on this issue.
- C. On 15th March 2012, TRAI has issued a consultation paper with reference to Combo Tariff Voucher basically seeking comments of stakeholders on (i) 4th category of vouchers (Combo Vouchers (ii) any restrictions so as to protect the consumers' interests (iii) ceiling on administrative and processing fee for vouchers from Rs. 2/- to Rs. 3/- etc.



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- D. On 7th March 2012 TRAI issued consultation paper on 'Auction of Spectrum' and sought comments and counter comments of stakeholders by 21st March 2012 and 28th March 2012 respectively. This consultation paper has been issued as per the directions of the Supreme Court to TRAI to make fresh recommendations for grant of license and allocation of spectrum in 2G band in 22 service areas by auction as was done for allocation of spectrum in 3G band.
- E. On 7th March 2012 TRAI has issued an amendment in the Telecom Consumer Protection (Third Amendment Regulation, 2012 (6 of 2012) on the request of industry associations.
- F. On 5th March 2012, TRAI has issued recommendation to DOT vide letter No.402-26/2011- I &FN in connection with extension of support from USO Fund towards Rural Direct Exchange Lines on expiry of current subsidy support. As it will take some more time to start a consultation process on the subject, TRAI has, purely an adhoc measure, recommended that subsidy of Rs. 600 crore may be given to BSNL.
- G. On 2nd March 2012, TRAI vide DO letter No.9-15/2011-BB & PA furnished to DOT their response on the Draft National Telecom Policy. Mission of the new Policy, according to TRAI are ubiquitous, robust, reliable, secure, affordable and efficient converged telecom network with special focus on rural and remote areas, reposition of telecommunications as an instrument of socio-economic empowerment, self-sufficiency in manufacturing, strengthen institutional frame work and attract investment in telecom sector.

III. TRAI MEETINGS

- A. On 22nd March 2012, TRAI arranged a meeting to deliberate issues related to collection of data of Internet and Broadband

from access providers and ISPs in new format.

- B. On 22nd March 2012, there was a meeting of the CEOs with TRAI Chairman to deliberate issues regarding Value Added Services and Mobile Number Portability.

IV. DOT LETTERS

- A. On 6th March 2012 DOT sought comments through their letter No. 10/9/2007-Policy-I/TCOE-CC (Pt) from AUSPI amongst others regarding setting up of Telecom Standard Development Organization (TSDO).
- B. On 6th March 2012, a letter No.30-160-5/2006-USF was issued by the Administrator, USO Fund requesting the Association to direct concerned service providers to send the relevant information regarding details of the OFC network in CD in GIS enabled format.

V. DOT MEETINGS

- A. On 29th March, 2012 the first meeting of the Advisory Body on National Optical Fibre Network was held in Sanchar Bhawan under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT. During the meeting, formation of Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) was announced.
- B. On 27th March 2012, Hon'ble MOC & IT held a Round Table Conference on issues related to EMF radiation from cellular towers and mobile handsets with stakeholders at the BSNL headquarters, New Delhi.
- C. On 15th March 2012, a meeting of the National Working Group for ITU-T Study Group 12 was held in TEC.
- D. On 15th March 2012, there was a meeting in DOT under the Chairmanship of Member (T) to discuss issues related to implementation of Location Based Service.



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- E. On 12th March 2012, there was a meeting to discuss issues regarding International Mobile Roaming with the Jt. Secretary, Department of Commerce at Udyog Bhawan.
- F. On 9th March 2012, we had a meeting with Chairman, Telecom Commission basically to discuss certain issues arising out of the Supreme Court Judgment of 2nd February, 2012 amongst others.
- G. On 6th March 2012 a meeting has been held in Sanchar Bhawan basically to discuss on the short term interconnects agreement between BSNL & private operators.
- H. On 2nd March 2012, there was a meeting in DOT to discuss on Multi-Protocol Label Switching connectivity requirement for CMS project.
- I. On 2nd March 2012, second meeting of the National Working Group - 5 of the ITU-T was held in the New Committee Room, TEC.

VI. AUSPI LETTERS

- A. On 28th March, 2012, AUSPI submitted counter comments to TRAI on some stakeholders' views regarding TRAI consultation paper on 'Auction of Spectrum'. AUSPI's counter comments are basically re -farming of spectrum in 900 MHz band, Liberation of 2G bands, Reserve price, Eligibility and Cap on the amount of 2G spectrum, Spectrum usage charge, Auction Fee in installments and 700 MHz.
- B. On 26th March 2012, AUSPI issued a letter to DOT in connection with setting up of Telecom Standards Development Organization(TSDO). In its letter to DOT, AUSPI suggested that each primary member should have equal voting right along with equal membership fee for all primary members.
- C. On 23rd March, 2012, AUSPI submitted its Response to the TRAI consultation paper No. 5/2012 on 'Certain issues relating to the

Telecom Consumers Protection Regulations, 2012' which was issued by TRAI on the request of some stakeholders for their intention of having Combo Tariff Voucher. AUSPI vehemently stated that there is no need of Combo Tariff Voucher.

- D. On 21st March, 2012, AUSPI sent Response to the TRAI consultation paper on 'Auction of Spectrum'. While welcoming the opportunity given to us to comment, AUSPI submitted its comments on various issues raised by TRAI.
- E. On 20th March 2012 AUSPI issued a letter to Chairman TRAI requesting him to extend date of implementation of the Telecom Consumer Protection Regulation 2012 by one month as various vouchers are to be reformatted due to increase in service tax.
- F. On 14th March 2012, AUSPI issued a letter to DOT requesting them to direct TERM cells to audit BTS/sites whose self certificates have been submitted till date based on the existing norms and for BTS/sites whose self certificates will be submitted till 31-03-2012, based on the new Radiation norms.
- G. On 9th March 2012, AUSPI took up the issue regarding retrospective charging of spectrum holding by incumbent service providers beyond the 6.2 MHz with the MOC & IT as a counter to the allegations made by one association.
- H. On 9th March 2012, AUSPI sent a letter to the Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT on the issue of proposed Presidential Reference on 2G verdict stating that DOT should include the reference with respect to the allotment of spectrum free of cost from 1994 onwards till 2009.
- I. On 9th March 2012, AUSPI submitted its Response to TRAI's Consultation Paper No.



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02/2012 on 'Review of Policy of Forbearance in Telecom Tariffs'. In its response to TRAI, AUSPI brought out that any further regulatory intervention will only curtail the free growth of service and hence the existing regulatory policy of forbearance in telecom tariffs should continue.

- J. On 6th March 2012, AUSPI gave comments to the DOT on the Draft Telecom Security Policy. While responding to the issue in the Draft Policy, AUSPI sought clarity on some issues like the scope of testing of telecom network element, reference document, security compliance, standard tools, comprehensive testing methods in association with the industry, identify global agencies with experience along with plans of evolving Telecom Security Council of India etc.
- K. On 5th March 2012 AUSPI submitted a letter to the Minister of Communication and IT regarding availability of spectrum in 2G band in 22 Service Areas for auction. AUSPI requested the Government that the entire lot of spectrum currently available and becoming available in next few months in 2G bands should be put for auction which should be the first priority of the Government followed by 3G/4G spectrum auction.
- L. On 5th March 2012, AUSPI submitted its response to TRAI Consultation Paper No.03/2012 on Draft guidelines for Unified License/Class License.

VII. JOINT INDUSTRY LETTERS

- A. On 30th March 2012, a joint industry letter was issued to DOT seeking extension of 4 months time to complete activity on the ground with reference to the police verification of franchisees in J&K, Assam & North East service areas.

- B. On 30th March 2012, a Joint Industry letter was submitted to Advisor (T) in DOT regarding Location Based Service (LBS).
- C. On 29th March 2012, a joint industry letter was issued to TRAI stating that conducting consumer education workshops by service providers in each district would be a huge and cumbersome exercise and service providers should be allowed to hold two consumer education workshops in a year in each service area.
- D. On 16th March 2012, some issues with reference to the DOT guidelines for implementation of Green Technology in telecom sector was taken up with Secretary, DOT.
- E. On 10th March 2012, issue regarding Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) proposal of charging for Right of Way, imposition of rentals and subsequent cutting of the Optical Fibre Cables of the service providers was taken up with the Karnataka Chief Minister.

VIII. MEETINGS

A. AUSPI MEETINGS

- a) On 27th March, 2012, a meeting was held to frame AUSPI's counter comments on some of the stakeholders' response on consultation paper on 'Auction of Spectrum'.
- b) On 19th March 2012, a meeting was held in AUSPI to frame response to TRAI Consultation Paper on 'Auction of Spectrum'.
- c) On 13th March 2012, a preliminary meeting was held in AUSPI to frame views on the consultation paper on 'Auction of Spectrum'.



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- d) On 1st March 2012, there was a meeting in AUSPI to discuss issues like telecom equipment manufacturing, Green Telecom, Security audit amongst others.

B. JOINT INDUSTRY MEETINGS

- a) On 27th March 2012, an industry meeting was held prior to the CEOs meeting with TRAI Chairman on Mobile Number Portability and Value Added Services.
- b) On 19th March 2012, joint meeting of AUSPI, COAI, TAIPA & Greenpeace was held in COAI office to discuss implication of new TRAI directive on Green Telecom.

IX. TELECOM BYTES

▶ MORE MONEY IN THE NET

Business Today reports that survey by a Boston Consulting Group shows internet driven economic growth is set to rise exponentially across the G-20 countries including India. India currently ranks sixth among nations in internet contribution to its GDP growth while Britain holds the top rank.

▶ NEW NAME FOR DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Department of Information Technology has been renamed as **Department of Electronics and Information Technology**.

▶ RBI REMOVES LIMITS ON MOBILE BANKING TRANSACTIONS

The Reserve Bank of India has removed the ceiling of Rs. 50,000 per customer per day transaction mandated in 2009 under the guidelines on mobile banking. Banks are now free to place per transaction limits based on their own risk perception with the approval of its Board. Total transactions effected through mobile banking in 2010-11 were 9.60 million (value - ` 7806.48 million) as compared to

that of 2009-10 was 2.32 million (value - ` 1915.78 million) - an increase of more than 300 per cent in terms of volume and value

Percentage change in road accidents rate in Abu Dhabi during three days of worldwide Balckberry outage, in October 2011: 40

Percentage change in number of US pedestrians killed or injured while wearing headphones since 2004: +200

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