



PRESS RELEASE

COAI commends TRAI's directive to BSNL to restore connectivity

19 October 2011: In a directive issued dated 18th October 2011, the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has instructed BSNL to immediately restore connectivity to private operators at all POIs in the Punjab circle. COAI is heartened by the action taken by TRAI in view of the hardships and inconvenience faced by customers due to the reckless disconnections by BSNL, wrongly citing reasons of non-payment of Intra-circle carriage charges by the private operators.

COAI is appreciative and lauds the efforts of the Regulatory Body and its outlook towards prioritizing customers' interests and preventing disruption of services which are of utmost importance in today's digital age. TRAI, in its directive, has also referred to; and paid due importance to the earlier order by TDSAT on 30th September 2011, requisitioning BSNL to restore connectivity. BSNL has been directed to restore connectivity at all POIs in Punjab circle and report compliance by 21st October 2011, so as to ensure compliance of terms and conditions of Basic Telephone Service License and Unified Access Service Licence; which emphasize effective interconnection between service providers and protection of consumer interest.

COAI is hopeful that BSNL, in keeping with the spirit of the TRAI's directive, will not only restore connectivity to private operators in Punjab, but will provide similar respite to the subscribers in the other circles like Maharashtra, Goa, Rajasthan, etc., that have been severely affected by the coercive disconnection activities.

About COAI:

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-profit, non-governmental society dedicated to the advancement of communication, particularly modern communication through Cellular Mobile Telephone Services. With a vision to establish and sustain a world-class cellular infrastructure and facilitate affordable mobile communication services in India, COAI's main objectives are to protect the common & collective interests of its members. (<http://www.coai.in/>).