



## Telecom Industry welcomes Kerala Government's new Mobile Tower policy, recommends the same for all other States



New Delhi, March 19, 2014

The Indian Telecom industry has welcomed the Kerala Government's decision to accept the Central guidelines for clearance for installation of mobile towers in the State and said that the other State Governments can take a leaf out of the Kerala Government's initiative of adopting the Central guidelines in totality.

**Mr. Rajan S Mathews, Director General, COAI** said: *"The move by the Kerala Government is a step in the right direction for the development of ICT sector. India has adopted stringent safety norms for emissions from Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) which is one-tenth of the international standards. Further, the Central norms of tower guidelines were formulated after elaborate discussions with all stake holders including, the State governments, Department of Telecommunications and the industry and we find no reason why they should be subjected to further scrutiny and change,"* he added.

**Mr. Ashok Sud, Secretary General, Association of United Service Providers of India (AUSPI)**, said, *"The decision of the Kerala Government's step is a welcome move and will go a long way in further development of the telecom and ICT industry in the State."*

**Director General of TAIPA, Mr. Umang Das** noted that, *"Telecom towers are important infrastructure units of mobile communications and the country must have a unified policy as given in the Central norms. Adoption of Central norms will definitely encourage the development of the ICT sector in the area."*

The Kerala Government has adopted the guidelines issued by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in its entirety for the state through its order dated 15 March, 2014 and supersedes all earlier orders in this regard. The DoT had advised all State Governments to take suitable action for the installation of mobile towers by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in line with the guidelines issued by DoT in this regard on 1 August 2013. Accordingly, the Kerala Government has accorded sanction to the TSPs to install new towers, as per the new guidelines, in accordance with the guidelines issued by DoT. The order regarding the formulation of State and District committees to address public grievances and a nominal one-time fee for issuing permission for installation of towers will be issued separately, from time to time.

The DOT guidelines were adopted after a series of interactions with various stake holders, including State Governments, civil society interest groups and Industry. The guidelines addresses all the issues related to cellphone operators, infrastructure providers, State governments and TERM Cell of DOT. Recently, DOT had advised the State governments to consult the TERM Cells of each circle while formulating tower guidelines, so that the provisions of the Central guidelines are adhered to.

The Indian telecom sector has witnessed phenomenal growth and mobile telephony in particular has revolutionized the communications sector in the country over the last decade. Out of the 922 million telephone connections in the country, 893 million connections are wireless, as on January 2014.

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**About AUSPI:**

Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI), constituted in the year 1997 is the representative industry body of Unified Access Service Licensees providing CDMA & GSM Mobile Services, Fixed Line Services as well as Value Added Services throughout the length and breadth of the country. ([www.auspi.in](http://www.auspi.in))

**About COAI**

COAI was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society. COAI's vision is to establish India as the global leader of innovative mobile communications infrastructure, products and services and achieving a national teledensity of 100%, including broadband. The association is also dedicated to the advancement of modern communication and towards delivering the benefits of innovative and affordable mobile communication services to the people of India.

For more information please visit [www.coai.in](http://www.coai.in)

**About TAIPA:**

As a critical member of the wireless telecom ecosystem, the key players for Telecom Infrastructure providers have come together to form a representative industry body, Towers and Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA). All leading independent telecom infrastructure providers like Bharti Infratel, Viom Networks, Indus Towers, Reliance Infratel, ATC India Tower Corp., GTL Infrastructures, India Telecom Infra and Tower Vision are the founding members of the Society which visualizes itself to be the official voice for the Telecom Infrastructure industry. The Association intends to interact, discuss and deliberate with the Ministries, Policy Makers, Regulators, Financial institutions and Technical bodies for collection and dissemination of knowledge and information for promotion of healthy growth in telecom services. (<http://www.taipa.in/>)

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