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Cellular Operators' Association of India

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Why is in news? Over-the-top services must be licensed, says COAI

Telecom operators' body COAI made a strong pitch for OTT (over-the-top) communication services to directly compensate telcos for data traffic they are driving onto the networks, as it advocated a licensing and light-touch regulation framework for them.

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) is an Indian **non-governmental trade association** and advocacy group focused mainly on telecommunications industry.

COAI was constituted in **1995** as a registered, non-governmental society.

As of 2017, COAI has been (jointly) organizing the **India Mobile Congress** with the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India.

Over the years COAI has **emerged as the official voice for the Indian telecom industry** and interacts directly with Ministries, Policy Makers, Regulators, Financial Institutions and Technical Bodies.

It provides a **forum for discussion and exchange of ideas** between these bodies and the Service Providers, who share a common interest in the development of mobile telephony in the country.

COAI collaborates with other Industry Associations such as CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, ISPAI, VSAT, IAMAI association etc., with the objective of presenting an industry consensus view to the Government on crucial issues relating to the growth and development of the Indian telecom Industry.

Recently the COAI has set up the **5G India Forum** (5GIF).

COAI expanded its membership base to include four other telecom companies, namely CISCO India, Huawei Technologies, Qualcomm and Alcatel Lucent as associate members.

COAI organizes the **India Mobile Congress** in association with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on an annual basis in New Delhi, India.

The event **attracts international attention and participation**. So far, the following events have been organized: India Mobile Congress 2017, India Mobile Congress 2018 and India Mobile Congress 2019.

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