

Quarterly Report No. 3

Standards, Policy and Regulation

('January – March' 2020)

April 2020

SESEI IV– Dinesh Chand Sharma

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1. Executive Summary

This quarterly report reaches you during the trying times of global pandemic that we all are experiencing. In a short duration of 3 to 4 months, it has changed and will further change the fabric of our lives. Though we cannot negate the adverse impacts which we will witness during the course of our future journey and what our future roadmap would look like. Most countries have announced nationwide lockdown and the trade and business activities have been disrupted. Most meetings and work are being carried out from home using web-based applications. Students all over the world are able to carry on with their curriculum through online classes. The digital media is providing entertainment to millions who are stranded at home. Essential goods, emergency services are also using digitized platforms to be able to reach out to its customers effectively.

It is because of global interoperable standards, that we have been able to link up with each other through various means of social media, internet-based meeting applications, mobile technology. Technology and standards have certainly a big role to play in our lives and most certainly during the calamities.

In February 2020, IEC held its SMB (Standardization Management Board) in India. Mr. Geert Maes, from CCMC participated in the same. During the visit of Mr. Geert Maes, SESEI organised meetings with key stakeholders in the Electrotechnical and ICT sector to have concrete discussion on installation rules and electrotechnical updates and challenges. These meetings were in sync with the India Taskforce activities initiated earlier between CCMC and BIS and also strengthen the collaboration and cooperation between SESEI and BIS.

To promote sale of quality goods in the country and cut import of sub-standard goods. As part of Budget 2020 Finance Ministry has put a target formulate technical regulations for about 5,000 products in coordination with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The government has also notified 12 new electronic products to its existing list, including external hard drive, wireless headphone and earphones, television other than plasma, LCD and LED TV sets, that would require mandatory registration under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) before sale in the country. SESEI is working with the Industry associations to address issues related to market access and is also preparing a report for the project partners.

The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry also announced that no imports will be allowed without Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) code into the country, while speaking at the 6th National Standards Conclave. SESEI was also invited as a speaker at this 6th National Standards Conclave by Ministry's Standards for Trade Facilitation where he gave a detailed presentation on "Voluntary Standards & Global Accountability Mechanisms", covering, Global/European Standards, Standardization in Free Trade Agreements, Smart & Better Regulation.

SenRa, provider for long range-based (LoRa-based) Internet of Things (IoT) applications, has deployed LoRaWAN Network across 60 cities in India. Five years of 100 smart cities mission will be concluding in June 2020 and the Central government is likely to release a detailed status of the projects completed during this duration.



Indian consumers are moving beyond smartphone connectivity and moving to other connected solutions which apart from making them smart' substantially increase the utility of such devices. Smart wearables are becoming the latest trend with the consumers. In accordance with the growing digitized society, as per a latest projection and report released by research firm TechArc, India is expected to record a 11% growth by selling devices worth Rs 3,24,960 lakh crore (€40.6 bn) in 2020. The government has also given approval for Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units.

New emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, digitization of services and connected society are some of the foremost objectives established by the Government of India under the National Digital Telecom Policy 2019. In the post Covid -19 era, one of the key learning becoming imminent is the need to create a connected society through digital means, IoT, Machine to Machine (M2M) etc. and is going play a big role.

Govt. think tank Niti Aayog, has come out with a strategy document to understand how best blockchain technology can be used for many crucial areas which can significantly benefit the country. This first discussion paper covers the basics of distributed technology, its potential framework for India, the implementation challenges, lessons from NITI Aayog's own PoCs, its use cases, and recommendations for India's national blockchain strategy. Niti Aayog is also developing a national data and analytics platform (NDAP) to make all government data accessible to stakeholders in a user-friendly manner. The data available on the platform, across sectors should be coherent to support analysis and dissemination. The NDAP will host multiple datasets, present them coherently and provide visualisation and analytics tools.

Creation of 5G ecosystem and propagation of the 5G services timely is a foremost objective of Ministry of Communications. It has agreed to allow all telecom service providers for conducting trials of super-fast speed 5G networks. The roadmap and vision established in the 5G Vision document is with a view that India will no longer be behind the technology curve and follow the timely launch of fifth-generation or 5G networks.

In this report, you will also find details of the various notifications issued by the Ministries concerning priority sectors. As always, we have also provided details of the various meeting, queries and events addressed and participated by SESEI.

List of draft standards released by Indian Standards organizations during this quarter is available as **Annexure-1** and detailed activity tracker including list of queries, events and meetings as "**Annexure -2**" to this quarterly report.

I would like to conclude by praying for safety and good health for everyone. Stay safe

Warm regards,

Dinesh Chand Sharma
(Seconded European Standardization Expert in India)



2. Key Meetings, Event Participation and Queries

In this section we are providing you with a snapshot of various activities performed by SESEI expert during the period starting January 2020 till 31st March 2020. The objective of aligning synergies between EU and Indian standardization stakeholders, sharing of knowledge and best practices and to keep abreast with the latest developments in both the regions primarily materializes due to these meetings, seminars and conferences. These also provide an opportunity to SESEI to promote and showcase the latest technologies and standardization work being carried out by the Project Partners. A quick dashboard of the activity summary is provided below:

Sr. No.	Description	Total Until now	In Last Quarter
1	External Meetings	84	28
2	Internal Meetings	30	10
3	Events/Seminar/Workshop/Roundtable	50	13
	Total	164	51
4	No of Queries	33	11

Detail of few key meetings and event/workshop participation is briefly summarized below which are essential to help achieving the objectives of the SESEI project. For detailed information on these key meetings, events/workshop participations and list of queries addressed, please refer Activity Tracker report submitted as “Annexure 2- Activity Tracker Queries for the period of Jan-March 2020.docx”.

Key Meetings:

Following are the list of key meetings, SESEI expert addressed during the last quarter.

Meetings with BIS:

ICT:

- **3rd meeting of working group on Active Assisted Living (AAL), BIS:** to discuss the inputs/comments received from members on pre standardization study report on Active Assisted Living.

Smart cities:

- **17th meeting of Smart infrastructure Sectional committee LITD 28, BIS:** Brief overview of needs from Smart Cities Projects perspective was presented by Mr. Kunal Kumar (IAS), JS and Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA. The other issues discussed were Prioritization of Standards under development in the Committee, and status update from other working groups

Smart manufacturing/Industry 4.0

- **1st meeting of LITD 34 Smart Manufacturing Sectional Committee of BIS:** The agenda of the first meeting was to agree on the scope of work for the sectional committee and review of the INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITIES i.e. IEC SyC Smart Manufacturing.

Smart Mobility:

- **12th Meeting of Intelligent Transport Systems Sectional Committee, TED 28:** The main agenda of the meeting was, Composition of the sectional committee/sub-committee/panel Draft standards/amendments for finalization, etc.

Meetings with TEC/ DoT and other Govt. Bodies

ICT:

- **Periodic Meetings of the TEC Consultative Committee formed for oneM2M adoption process:** The Consultative Committee of the TEC for finalisation of National Standards for IoT/M2M is holding periodic meetings via audio / video call facilities. TEC is considerably progressing towards finalization of draft report on the IoT/ M2M standards for India. comments / observations of the members and public comments is being reviewed and debated to ensure smooth deployment of the standardization layer for IoT / M2M in India. SESEI will continue to contribute and work along with TEC in the specific matter
- **Meetings of the TEC Working Group on "Security by design principle and National Trust Center on IoT":** To discuss the draft terms of reference of the Working Group
- **Meetings of the Smart Village & Agriculture Working Group of TEC:** for finalizing Technical Report on Smart Village & Agriculture.
- **WG meetings on Future Communication Technologies in IoT domain:** WG on Future Communication Technologies in IoT domain will study the emerging technologies which have not been covered in the previous report such as 5G, BLE mesh, etc.'

Meetings with EU delegates, EU project officers & officials from EU delegation in India:

Generic:

- **Meeting with Prof. Rd. Monika Schädler & Prof. Joachim from Hochschule Bremen City University of Applied Sciences:** to understand the Standards development scenario in India and also sought inputs in drafting (referred by DIN/DKE) a chapter on "Context, institutions and actors of standardization in India".
- **Meeting with SIS officials:** India and Swedish SDO held meeting to know more about SESEI role, discuss harmonized standardization system & how to benefit from the SESEI project.
- **Meeting with IKEA & SIS representative:** to discuss "How IKEA and SESEI can cooperate in the future. SESEI expert shared a short presentation on "Who is SESEI" and exchanged dialogue around policy and standards.
- **Meeting with India Public Affairs Manager Corporate Communications, IKEA India:** discuss ongoing issue in India, status update on external stakeholders and advocacy on public policy and Govt. initiatives, how SESEI can help etc.
- **Meeting with Yasmin Zaveri from Swedish Embassy:** Possibility of Cooperation and Collaboration around Standards & related Policy in reference to SESEI meeting with SIS & IKEA.



ICT:

- **Meeting with EU Delegation Mr. Benoit Sauveroche & with Mr Tonnie De Koster, Advisor, Digital Single Market, DG CONNECT, European Commission** : to give an update on the 5G standards development in India especially RIT/FORM, Project SESEI activities, New Phase of Project SESEI IV ToR and its Objectives and status of Telecom Sector in India.
- **Meeting with Mr. Benoit Sauveroche EU Delegation to India**: to discuss future EU-IN ICT standardization project scope & activities.
- **Meeting with Mr. Christian Franz, Partner & Managing Director, CPC Analytics**: to discuss the status of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in India. SESEI shared a short presentation covering policy initiatives related to AI in India.

Circular Economy:

- **Audio Call Meeting with GIZ Officials on "Resource Efficiency Standards"**: to deliberate on discussion paper on "Standards to enhance foster use of secondary raw material and enhance resource efficiency and circular economy in industry in India" drafted by TERI team.

Meetings with Industry & Associations:

ICT:

- **Meeting with Broadband India Forum (BIF) Committee on ICT inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwD)**: A meeting was called by BIF to finalize response to DoT, based on the TRAI's recommendation on Accessible ICTs for PwDs.
- **Meeting with ASSOCHAM National Council on IT/ITES**: discussion to seek comments and suggestions from the members on the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 to be collected and presented to the JPC on behalf of Assocham members.

Meetings with Project Partners:

- **Visit of Mr. Geert Maes, Customer Solutions Manager – Industry – Electro-technology in the Standards Department of the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre**:, SESEI organized few meetings with key stakeholders in the Electrotechnical and ICT sector to have concrete discussion on installation rules and electrotechnical updates and challenges. During this meeting SESEI briefed Mr Geert about the Project SESEI, ongoing activities and the latest status of the ICT and Electrical and Electronic sector in India. Following meetings were held:
 - **Meeting with CEO MAIT** to discuss Electrotechnical & Consumer Electronics and other topics of mutual interest in Electro-technical areas.
 - **Meeting with Head Services Sector Department, BIS**: to discuss Services for Services Standardization and other areas of mutual interest.
 - **Meeting with Standardization Head – Electrotechnical Division, Bureau of Indian Standards**: to discuss Installation Rules, status of IEC Installation Rules Implementation in Europe, E-Vehicle Charging System Part 1: withdrawn from IEC website.
- Periodic Conference call meetings with the **Indico and ETSI officials are being held to discuss the action points for organising the IoT/M2M Workshop** at New Delhi.



- **Joint Call of CEN-CENELEC-BIS to discuss India Taskforce agenda items.**
- **Steering Committee Meeting No. SC#3:** Due to the Covid 19 advisory Steering Committee Meeting No. SC#3 was held virtually. Actions items from the previous steering Committee meetings and their status update, project administration and management, Budget snapshot and proposals for reallocation of unused budget, etc.
- **CEN-CENELEC Priority India Meeting:** CEN CENELEC organized Priority India Meeting to discuss the action items to be followed up with BIS & MEITY around issues related to Market Access, etc.

Key Event Participations:

Generic:

- **6th National Standards Conclave: Standards for Trade Facilitation:** SESEI was invited as an imminent speaker, representative of the European Standardisation Bodies in India. SESEI expert was a part of session on “Voluntary Standards & Global Accountability Mechanisms” and gave a detailed presentation covering, Global/European Standards, Standardization in Free Trade Agreements, Smart & Better Regulation.
- **BIS- IEC workshop being organized by BIS:** Major areas of discussion were Renewable energy, Safety in installation and E-Mobility.
- **EBG organised Panel Discussion on Intellectual Property Rights in Collaboration with Swiss Embassy and K&S partners.**
- **7th Annual Meeting of the Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure**

ICT:

- **7th Edition of the “The 5G Huddle” event organized by Wireless World Research Forum (WWRF):** Adrian Scrase, CTO ETSI was one of the key speakers for 3GPP work on 5G and SESEI shared update on ETSI work on 5G. The main aim of the event was to review the progress made and the challenges that still remain on 5G Technologies.
- **Broadband India Forum (BIF) organized a webinar on adoption of EN 301 549** by the Indian authorities for promotion of providing ICT access to persons with disabilities (PWD). SESEI was main presenter on Policy, Technology & Standards for Person with Disabilities
- **4th edition of the oneM2M Developers' Tutorials and Hackathon** in Thiruvananthapuram and Goa on 7-10 Jan 2020
- **TSDSI organised workshop on IMT2020 Technologies** to exchange views on IMT2020 Technologies and standardization activities
- **TSDSI organised webinar on "India's First Living Lab at IIITH: use case for oneM2M"**

Smart city:

- **Award Ceremony:** Smart City Empowering India Awards 2020.

Electrical & Electronics:

- **Workshop on Power Line Communications opportunities for India:** A workshop on "Power Line Communications opportunities for India" was organised to bring together various stakeholders from industries, utilities and academia who look to leverage PLC as a core technology.



- **India Smart Utility Week (ISUW) 2020:** Purpose of IEC-IEEE Standardization co-ordination, Harmonization of Standards, Electric Vehicles Infrastructure: Utility Challenges, LVDC Standardization Challenges, etc.

Key Queries addressed:

Generic:

- Addressed a query related to IPRs, with regard to TETRA Air Interface Standards: C-DAC
- Addressed a query related to WTO notification of an Indian standard: European Commission
- Provided Input on Indian Toy regulation: European Commission

ICT:

- Provided Inputs to draft pre-standardization study report on Active Assisted Living (AAL): BIS
- Addressed a query on Artificial Intelligence (AI): CPC Analytics
- Provided Inputs to EBG position paper: EBG
- Addressed a query regarding Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) and provided assistance in connecting with TEC, DoT officers to discuss the new standard "IEC 62209-3" for SAR measurements: ART-Fi
- Input on expert in Smart Health sector in India: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

Smart Cities

- Provided inputs to draft document on "Finalizing IoT / ICT standards for Smart cities": TEC
- Provided inputs to Technical Report on Smart Village & Agriculture: TEC

Circular Economy:

- Provided Inputs to discussion paper on Resource Efficiency standards and labels: GIZ

3. Generic Update

3.1 Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 extended for one Year

The Union Commerce and Industry Ministry announced changes in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) of Government of India. The present Policy which came into force on 1st April, 2015, is for 5 years and has validity upto 31st March, 2020. In view of the unprecedented current situation arising out of the pandemic Novel COVID-19, the Govt. has decided to continue relief under various export promotion schemes by granting extension of the existing Foreign Trade Policy by another one year i.e. up to 31st March, 2021. Several other relief measures have also been announced to support trade and industry.

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3.2 Budget 2020: All ministries to issue quality standard orders, says Finance Minister

There is a target to formulate technical regulations for about 5,000 products. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been tasked to prepare these regulations. India imports about 11,500 goods per year. Union Budget 2020 India: Finance Minister said all ministries will issue quality standards orders during the course of this year. The move would help in promoting sale of quality goods in the country and cut import of sub-standard goods.

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3.3 Government brings external hard drive, LED modules, headphones under BIS registration

The government has notified 12 electronic products, including external hard drive, wireless headphone and earphones, television other than plasma, LCD and LED TV sets, that would require mandatory registration under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) before sale in the country.

The government in the notification for "[Addition of product categories to the Schedule of the Electronics and Information Technology Goods \(Requirements for Compulsory Registration\) Order, 2012](#)" made it mandatory for standalone LED Modules for general lighting, lighting chain or rope lights, induction stove, automatic teller cash dispensing machines, USB type external hard disk drive, rice cooker to get clearance from BIS.

Electronic musical system and external solid state storage devices above 256 GB capacity will also require BIS clearance before sale in the country. The scheme was notified in 2012 with the objective to curb sale of spurious imported products in the country. Mobile phones and many wireless products have already been incorporated under the scheme.

Download the notification from [here](#)

3.4 No Imports in 'Others' Category without HSN Code; Government to Support Industry to Establish International Quality Standards

No imports will be allowed without Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) code into the country said the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, while speaking at the 6th National Standards Conclave on the subject of Standards for Trade Facilitation. Commerce & Industry Minister further said that henceforth there must be zero tolerance for substandard products and services from industry and consumers.

He further stated that Government will support industry in every way to establish standards for Indian goods and services to meet international requirements so that brand India is recognized in the world as a provider of quality products and services. Unless Indian business and industry make standards its calling card, India will not be able to reach the target of a USD 5 trillion economy. The Government is committed to establishing standards of Indian products and services to world class levels which will enable our exports to be accepted globally due to the quality of goods and services.



It is an unfortunate reality for India that the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) entered into with other countries has not led to the growth of India's trade and business because the poor quality of the products and services that get restricted with non-tariff barriers when exported. He further elaborated on this point with the number of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) in countries like US (8000), Brazil (3879), China (2872) and India with only 439 TBTs. This illustrates the fact as to the manner in which India and rest of the world are looking at the concept of quality in products and services.

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3.5 Intellectual Property filings by Startups nearly doubled in six years: MeitY

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) said that the number of intellectual property rights (IPR) filings from startups have nearly doubled in six years. A "sea change" in this direction came after the centre brought the National IPR Policy in 2016. "The number of IPR filings in India have increased significantly. Earlier there used to be 4,000 to 4,500 IPR filings annually six to seven years ago, but today this number has nearly doubled in India".

"The governments, both central as well as states, are supporting startups and MSMEs on how to create a better footprint around IPR. We should not work only for others, but also create IP for ourselves. Startups are the only way to do it and if we do not support it then we will forever remain dependent on technology. IPR is the only way to have ownership of technology".

Recently, the government had emphasised that the National IPR Policy will pave the way to strengthen intellectual property rights in India.

- It said that the share of domestic filings for patents has increased from 22% in 2013-14 to 34% in 2018-19.
- In terms of filing of IP applications, the number of patents has grown by 18% from 2013-14 to 2018-19, while trademarks have grown 69% in the same period.
- in the case of the disbursement of IPR applications, the number of patents has grown 353% from 2013-14 to 2018-19 and trademarks have grown 395% in the same period

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4 SMART CITIES

4.1 SenRa deploys LoRaWAN Network in 60 Cities

SenRa, a PAN India Low-Power Wide-Area Networks (LPWANs) provider for long range-based (LoRa-based) Internet of Things (IoT) applications, announced the successful deployment of their LoRaWAN Network across 60 cities in India. This achievement marks yet another major milestone in their journey of becoming one of the leading IoT network providers in India.



SenRa is on track to deploy its public LoRaWAN network in 100 cities by the end of 2020 which will be critical in supporting the massive IoT deployments in Smart Cities led by utilities and energy metering projects.

SenRa, a contributing member of the LoRa Alliance, is a PAN India Low Power Wide Area Network Provider (LPWAN), specifically LoRaWAN, for the Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine to Machine (M2M) solutions and applications. SenRa is currently deploying LPWANs throughout India for projects which require secure, reliable, long-distance communication at low cost.

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4.2 Centre to release report card of 'smart cities' in June 2020

The central government will be releasing a report card of 100 selected smart cities in three categories- ease of living, municipal, performance index and climate-in June, as the government's Smart Cities Project completes five years. The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said that it will help cities in better planning and moving towards data-driven governance that will eventually improve their liveability.

Under the Centre's **Smart Cities Mission**, 100 smart cities have been shortlisted through a competitive process comprised of four different rounds. Around 80 percent of the 5,151 projects have been tendered and around 60 percent of them have been completed. Although, some cities worked on the projects more efficiently and delivered outstanding results but, some cities did not perform well.

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5 Electrical Equipment including Consumer Electronics

5.1 India Plans to Mandate Cyber Security Measures for Power Grids

India's electricity grid operators will have to install firewalls and other measures used by companies to avert an attack on their information technology systems and check rising hacking incidents of power networks across the world. Grid operators and regulatory agencies will need to have a continuity plan handy in the event of a cyber-attack, according to draft [rules](#) published by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. The move is part of a overhaul of the decade-old guidelines.

The report comes barely months after the nation's monopoly nuclear power producer admitted its information system had been [breached](#), underscoring the need for more action to protect critical installations. Energy networks across the world have been key targets for hackers, prodding governments to take safeguard measures.

The draft report advises central and state transmission utilities and load dispatch centers to ensure protection of sensitive data and identify reserve transmission capacities that can take over in case of a disruption apart from regular monitoring of risks. It also recommends that these bodies prioritize

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resources and allocate adequate workforce for online security. To deal with malware, India protects its central power grid through multiple firewalls and has isolated it from office networks.

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5.2 IEA Launches First In-depth Review of India's Energy Policies

In partnership with NITI Aayog, International Energy Agency (IEA) released the first in-depth review of India's energy policies. The report highlights the achievements of India's energy policies and provides recommendations to support the government's goals of promoting well-functioning energy markets and boosting deployment of renewables. IEA regularly conducts in-depth reviews of energy policies for its member and association countries. This is the first review carried out for India, which has been an IEA-association country since March 2017.

The report highlights the strong growth of renewables in India, which now accounts for almost 23% of the country's total installed capacity. The review also found that energy efficiency improvements in India avoided 15% of additional energy demand, oil and gas imports, and air pollution as well as 300 million tonnes of CO2 emissions between 2000 and 2018.

India is becoming increasingly influential in global energy trends. The country's demand for energy is set to double by 2040, and its electricity demand may triple, according to the IEA report. Indian oil consumption is expected to grow faster than that of any other major economy. This makes further improving energy security a key priority for India's economy, says the IEA.

IEA welcomes Indian government policies designed to conduct large-scale renewable energy auctions, open up coal mining to private companies, and promote access to oil and gas markets for foreign investors. The report offers a wide range of recommendations for reforms in support of India's goal of promoting open and well-functioning energy markets in sectors such as coal, gas and electricity. These include building strong regulators to ensure non-discriminatory access, moving from state allocation to market pricing, and further rationalizing energy subsidies.

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5.3 Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Large Scale Electronics manufacturing

The Union Cabinet has approved the Production Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing. The scheme proposes production linked incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units.

The Scheme shall extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments, to eligible companies, for a period of five (5) years subsequent to the base year as defined. The proposed scheme is likely to benefit 5-6 major global



players and few domestic champions, in the field of mobile manufacturing and Specified Electronics Components and bring in large scale electronics manufacturing in India.

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5.4 India needs to set up manufacturing base for smart electricity meters

State-owned Energy Efficiency Services Limited has announced the completion of installation of 10 lakh smart meters across India under the centre's Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP). India needs to establish a manufacturing base of smart electricity meters to ensure adequate supply and should ensure that there are multiple players in the segment, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy has said in its latest report.

"There is a need to augment the manufacturing base of the smart meters to ensure supply of adequate number of meters to be installed all over the country. It should be ensured that there are multiple players in the field to rule out monopoly," the panel stated. This year in the Budget 2020, Rs 22,000 crore (€2.75 billion) were allocated for the power and renewable energy sector and urged the state governments to implement smart meters in three years. The move is aimed at giving the consumers the right to choose suppliers and the rates.

The committee highlighted the advantages of smart meters over conventional meters. Though the cost of smart meter is nearly three times more this extra cost could be recovered in a six-and-a-half year time frame, the committee said.

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5.5 India to sell connected consumer devices worth Rs 3.25 lakh crore in 2020: Report

Connected consumer device market in India is expected to record a 11% growth by selling devices worth Rs 3,24,960 lakh crore (€40.6 bn) in 2020, as per a forecast by research firm TechArc. "Users in India are moving beyond smartphone connectivity and moving to other connected solutions which apart from making them smart' substantially increase the utility of such devices," said Founder & Chief Analyst techARC, while releasing the 1st edition of 'India Connected Consumer Report.

Fundamentally, this is being driven by two trends of creating a connected cluster around smartphones, being the hub and adding connectivity in consumer electronics led by smart TVs and smart speakers," he added.

Smartphones will continue to lead the sales of connected devices both in value and volume. However, with normal growth outlook for smartphones, equipment manufacturers will explore adjacent products where there is still a lot of headroom for growth, the report said.

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5.6 Office Memorandums (OMs)/Notifications issued by Ministry of Power (MoP) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

- MNRE Notification Extension - Solar Photovoltaics, Systems, Devices and Components Goods (Requirements for CR) Order - Self Certification by Manufacturers. [Read more/Download](#)
- Clarification regarding approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019. [Read more/Download](#)
- Amendment to Guidelines for enlistment under "Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019. [Read more/Download](#)
- Requests Solar PV Manufacturers & Solar PV Manufacturer Associations to provide list of machinery / capital goods required for inclusion in BCD exemption list. [Read more/Download](#)
- Wind Turbine Models included in the RLMM after declaration of new procedure (i.e 01 November 2018). [Read more/Download](#)
- Guidelines for Grid Connected Solar Rooftop Program under SOURA GRUHA YOJANE (SGY) scheme for FY 2019-20. [Read more/Download](#)
- Office Memorandum regarding setting up of "Renewable Energy Standardisation Cell" in MNRE [Read more/Download](#)

6 Automotive

6.1 In Phase-II to FAME India Scheme 2636 EV Charging Stations sanctioned

To give a further push to clean mobility in Road Transport Sector, the Department of Heavy Industries has sanctioned 2636 charging stations in 62 cities across 24 States/UTs under FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India) scheme phase II. In future at least one charging station will be available in most of the selected cities in a grid of 4 Km X 4 km. This will boost the confidence of users of Electric Vehicles and also encourage the OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) to launch the new electric vehicle models due to the lack of charging infrastructure.

Department of Heavy Industry had invited the Expression of Interest (EoI) from million-plus cities, smart cities, State/UT capitals and cities from special category states for submission of proposal for availing incentives under FAME India Scheme Phase II for deployment of EV charging infrastructure within Cities.

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6.2 EESL to set up 10,000 EV charging stations in next 3 Years

Power PSUs' joint venture EESL is set to ramp up its capital expenditure to set up around 10,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the next two to three years. A joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power, the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has undertaken this project to boost the e-mobility ecosystem in India.



Presently, the state-run firm has tied up with various private and public companies such as Apollo Hospitals, BSNL, Maha-Metro, BHEL and HPCL, among others, to set up public charging infrastructure. It has also partnered with urban local bodies in Hyderabad, Noida, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Chennai, and is in discussion with others to erect such infra. EESL are working towards strengthening the charging infrastructure with an objective to set up 10,000 charging stations over the next two to three years across India. EESL is in the process of signing MoUs with various states and government departments to promote EV adoption in India, which will further boost interest among the public. One of the main capital requirements to set up charging infrastructure is the availability of "land", which as of now is provided free of cost by most municipal bodies or firms for public chargers to EESL.

The clean energy major then sets up the charging station in that area and operates it for 10 years. In return, EESL pays a certain proportion as land rental to the entity for every kilowatt hour (kW/h) the company utilises. Till now, EESL has installed 68 public charging points, which are currently operational across the country. Currently, many automobile companies and others, including standalone charging infrastructure developers, are also installing these facilities.

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6.3 Government hikes duty on import of electric vehicles by 5-15%

In a bid to incentivize local manufacturing of electric vehicles, the Government of India has increased custom duty on imports of battery-powered vehicles between 5% and 15%.

The move may lead to a cost increase for electric vehicle makers who import their vehicles as completely-built units or as knocked-down kits. Hyundai Motor India imports its Kona EV, however, an official close to the company said that its pricing had already accounted for higher duty as per the phased electric vehicle manufacturing plan of the government. However, it is still studying detailed impact of the budget and is yet to take a call on pricing.

The customs duty on completely built units of electric commercial vehicles have been increased from 25% to 40%, whereas the one with the internal combustion engine has been increased from 30% to 40%. The tax on semi-knocked down forms of an electric passenger vehicle, three-wheeler has been increased from 15% to 30%, whereas semi-knocked down electric, buses, trucks and two-wheelers has been raised from 15% to 25%.

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6.4 Electric vehicle sales up 20% in FY 20

Electric vehicle sales in the country increased by 20% to 156,000 units in the last financial year. According to data available with industry body Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV), this includes 152,000 two-wheelers, 3400 cars and 600 buses. The corresponding sale for the FY 18-19 was 126,000 two-wheelers, 3600 cars and around 400 buses making a total of 130,000 units.

This figure does not include E Rickshaws which is still largely with the unorganized sector with a reported

sale of around 90,000 units. The corresponding figures of the E-ricks sold in the previous year have not been documented. Of the electric two-wheelers sold last fiscal, 97% were electric scooters and a very small volume of motorcycles and electric cycles accounted for the remaining 3%. Low-speed scooters that have a max speed of 25km/hr and do not need registration with the transport authorities constituted a whopping 90% of all electric two-wheelers sold.

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6.5 Mercedes to launch first fully-electric vehicle in India in April

German auto giant Mercedes-Benz could become the first luxury carmaker to launch a fully-electric vehicle in India when it commercially launches the EQC, a battery-powered sports utility vehicle (SUV) in April. The five-seater SUV is one of the several new electric vehicles being planned by Mercedes for India. While the EQC will become the flagship model, there are plans to introduce the EQA, a compact EV, in India that could become the base EV for the company.

Pricing of the EQC will be revealed in April. but, considering it will be a fully-imported product, it will be slapped with heavy import taxes. However, GST will be at 5 percent. Launched in the US a few months ago, the EQC is priced at \$67,900, undercutting the Audi E-Tron and the Jaguar I-Pace.

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6.6 Ministry of Road Transport and Highway has issued following notifications:

- G.S.R. 37(E) regarding mass emission standards for Di Methyl ether and M85 [Read more/Download](#)

7. ICT

7.1 Government Think Tank Niti Aayog Identifies Key Blockchain Use Cases for India

The leading policy think tank working for the government of India, Niti Aayog, has come out with a strategy document recognising many crucial areas blockchain technology can significantly benefit the country. Known as Blockchain: The India Strategy — Towards Enabling Ease of Business, Ease of Living and Ease of Governance, the 59-page policy paper is the first of two-part papers to be published by NITI Aayog. The first discussion paper covers the basics of distributed technology, its potential framework for India, the implementation challenges, lessons from NITI Aayog's own PoCs, its use cases, and recommendations for India's national blockchain strategy. Here are the main takeaways from the Niti Aayog's discussion Paper:

- **NITI Aayog: Understanding Blockchain For Government of India:** As part of the document, NITI Aayog recognised Blockchain technology by giving an explainer. It said, "new data can be added to a blockchain only with an agreement between the various nodes of the blockchain network, a

mechanism known as distributed consensus. Every node of the distributed network has its own copy of blockchain's data and checks the other nodes' data authenticity – if one node changes its local copy, the other nodes reject it. New data is added to the new block, and once added, it is immutable. Older data can neither be deleted nor modified because a snapshot of it is captured in the blocks of data that come after it.”

NITI Aayog has conducted PoCs in four areas in an attempt to assess the power of distributed ledgers in providing enhanced efficiency and improved possible hurdles in execution, like Track and trace' of drugs in the pharma drug supply chain, claim verification and approval in the disbursement of fertiliser subsidies, verification of university certificates, and transfer of land record ownership.

In one of the PoCs for the fertiliser subsidy pilot undertaken by NITI Aayog, the challenge was minimising the turnaround period for reimbursement of subsidies payments and freight claims. The existing workflow was filled with inefficiencies, including multiple systems of record, limited visibility for inventory stocks and low trust in the data created for claim processes.

- **NITI Aayog: Blockchain Upskilling In India:** According to the paper, there is a dearth of blockchain developers. It said that based on the most aggressive evaluation worldwide, the number of qualified blockchain developers is not more than 10,000 in total, which NITI Aayog discussion paper identifies both as a challenge as well as an opportunity.
- **Blockchain In Healthcare:** Using blockchain technology for a unified data system, NITI Aayog had another blockchain PoC in India with different partners in the healthcare industry domain. In this context, the pilot was different from the previous pilots as the process was not completely 'captive' to one institution and needed large scale coordination for its successful execution.

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7.2 5G India Forum submits cutting edge report of new 5G radio technologies at ITU meeting

The 5G India Forum has submitted its report on new 5G radio technologies at the recent International Telecommunication Union (ITU) meeting. The final report of the 5G India Forum Independent Evaluation Group (5GIF IEG) states that operators are empowering consumers with the power to check and opt for technologies that meet a minimum technical performance requirement in an era of 5G spectrum. A significant outcome of this effort was that an industry-grade simulator that was built for the purpose of evaluation and that can now be leveraged for future technology studies in India.

The 5G India Forum (5GIF) has been established under the aegis of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), aiming to become the leading force in the development of next-generation communications and will enable synergising national efforts and will play a significant role in shaping the strategic, commercial and regulatory development of the 5G ecosystem in India.



While the primary objective of the 5GIF IEG was to evaluate candidate technologies in the ITU defined framework, COAI tasked the IEG to qualify how the behaviour of the 3GPP standards-based technologies (that have successfully given more than two decades of “seamless connectivity”, and facilitated large scale market adoption) fare now in meeting the targets set by National Digital Communications Policy-2018 (NDCP-2018). In this regard, COAI had provided evaluation results on a couple of additional scenarios that reflect real-life Indian network deployment.

5GIF IEG evaluated candidate radio interface technology (RIT) submissions under two categories. The first category involved candidate RIT submissions belonging to the class of globally harmonised standards that are based on technologies developed by the 3GPP (specifically 3GPP New Radio). The second category of the evaluation was on a couple of technologies not belonging to this category of globally harmonised standards. These technologies do not interwork with 3GPP networks (yet) and are of minimal interest.

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7.3 NITI Aayog to develop National Data Platform

NITI Aayog will develop a National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) to make all government data accessible to stakeholders in a user-friendly manner. Releasing the Vision Document for NDAP, Niti Aayog said that the NDAP will strive to ensure that the data is assured, consistent, coherent and credible. According to the vision document, data across sectors should be coherent to support analysis and dissemination. The NDAP will host multiple datasets, present them coherently and provide visualisation and analytics tools.

According to the vision document, data across sectors should be coherent to support analysis and dissemination. "In addition, there should be easy access to the most recent data, published reliably," the document noted. The NDAP will host multiple datasets, present them coherently and provide visualisation and analytics tools.

"The platform will be powered by a user-friendly search engine, backed by seamless navigation, with a world-class user interface. Data will be provided in a machine-readable format with customisable analytics," it said. Stating that the NDAP will provide access to data from multiple sectors in one place, the document said data will be sourced from different Central and State Ministries and Departments. NDAP will be a reliable platform for up-to-date data. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be developed to keep data updated, it said.

There will be a high-powered steering committee under the chairmanship of vice chairman, Niti Aayog to provide direction, oversee progress, guide on data sources, and address various inter-ministerial issues on collating data. Besides, there will be a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) consisting of sector and technology experts to provide guidance on the development of the platform, management of data, and aligning the platform for user-needs. The first version of National Data and Analytics Platform is proposed to be released in 2021.



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7.4 Government will give 5G spectrum for trials to all players

India will not bar any equipment suppliers, such as China's Huawei, in the upcoming trials for 5G. Telecom Minister said that the government will allocate airwaves to all telecom service providers for conducting trials of super-fast speed 5G networks. Huawei rivals western equipment makers, such as Ericsson, and is banned in the US. Many countries, however, have allowed telecom service providers to use Chinese gears. And now, India has also indicated its unwillingness to keep any company out of 5G trials.

This implies that all operators, backed by equipment vendors they have decided to partner with, will be able to participate in the upcoming 5G trials in the country, and the stance is expected to spell a relief for Chinese gear maker Huawei.

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7.5 Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) Notifications

- MEITY released a whitepaper on National Open Digital Ecosystems for public comments/inputs. [Read more/Download](#)

7.6 Reports/White Papers/Recommendations and Consultation Papers by TRAI

- Draft Recommendations on Network Testing before Commercial Launch of Services for Wireline Access Services. [Read more/Download](#)
- Consultation Paper on Traffic Management Practices (TMPs) and Multi-Stakeholder Body for Net Neutrality. [Read more/Download](#)
- Consultation Paper on 'Provision of Cellular backhaul connectivity via Satellite through VSAT under Commercial VSAT CUG Service Authorization'. [Read more/Download](#)
- Reforming the Guidelines for Transfer/Merger of Telecom Licenses [Read more](#)

8. Planned Activities for Next Quarters

- Preparation for Steering Committee #3 and planned meetings for SESEI
- Continue working with TEC for adoption of oneM2M standards
- Preparation and Organisation of the OneM2M / IoT workshop in India
- Policy & NEWS Updates
- Follow-up on the India Taskforce workshop action points
- Participation in the important conferences and events



9. Glossary

Sr. No.	Acronym	Expansion
1	TSDSI	Telecommunications Standards Development Society India
2	AAL	Active Assisted Living
3	LITDC	Electronics and Information Technology Division Council
4	BIS	Bureau of Indian Standards
5	MoHUA	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
6	IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
7	SyC	Systems Committee
8	DoT	Department of Telecommunications
9	TEC	Telecom Engineering Centre
10	5G	Fifth Generation
11	BIF	Broadband India Forum
12	WG	Working Group
13	M2M	Machine to Machine Communication
14	IoT	Internet of Things
15	AI	Artificial Intelligence
16	MAIT	Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology
17	MEITY	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
18	MNRE	Ministry of new and renewable energy
19	CEN	European Committee for Standardization
20	CENELEC	European Committee for Electro-technical Standardization
21	COAI	Cellular Operators Association of India
22	CEA	Central Electricity Authority
23	CDoT	Centre for Development of Telematics
24	DGFT	Directorate General of Foreign Trade
25	EEG	European Economic Group
26	EESL	Energy Efficiency Services Limited
27	ETA	Equipment Type Approval
28	ETD	Electro-Technical Department
29	ETSI	European Telecommunications Standards Institute
30	EU	European Union
31	EV	Electric Vehicle



32	FAME	Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles
33	IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
34	IRD	International Relations Department
35	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
36	IISc	Indian Institute of Science
37	MoP	Ministry of Power
38	MoP	Ministry of Power
39	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
40	MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
41	TRAI	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
42	R&D	Research and Development
43	SESEI	Seconded European Standardization Expert for India
44	SMNP	Smart Meter National Programme
45	WWRF	Wireless World Research Forum
46	PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
47	ISUW	India Smart Utility Week
48	SAR	Specific Absorption Rate
49	FTP	Foreign Trade Policy
50	LCD	Liquid Crystal Display
51	LED	Light Emitting Diodes
52	USB	Universal Serial Bus
53	HSN	Harmonized System of Nomenclature
54	FTAs	Free Trade Agreements
55	TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
56	LPWAN	Low-Power Wide-Area Networks
57	IEA	International Energy Agency
58	PV	Photovoltaics
59	EoI	Expression of Interest
60	GST	Goods and Services Tax
61	ITU	International Telecommunication Union
62	5GIF IEG	5G India Forum Independent Evaluation Group
63	3GPP	3rd Generation Partnership Project
64	NDAP	National Data and Analytics Platform
65	TAG	Technical Advisory Group