



Lt. Gen Dr. SP Kochhar
Director General

14, Bhai Veer Singh Marg,
New Delhi 110001

DG/COAI/2021/003

April 7, 2021

Dr Pradeep Haldar
National Health Mission
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
New Delhi

Dear Dr. Pradeep Haldar Ji,

1. This has reference to the D.O. letter of Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, Department of Telecom dated 16th March, 2021 addressed to Secretary, Department of Health, recommending and forwarding therewith the request of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) for categorising the frontline telecom workers as Telecom Warriors so as to prioritize them in line with others in this category.
2. As you are aware when the pandemic hit us last year, telecom operations once again proved to be a critical part of the country's Information Infrastructure. During the outbreak and spread of Covid-19 infection in the country, telecom industry ensured the availability and continuity of telecom operations throughout the country.
3. When the entire country was under a lockdown, the telecom field force worked relentlessly to ensure uninterrupted service access for all. They demonstrated to be the 'Telecom Warriors' to keep us connected during isolation and helped to cater to increased demand and enabled provision of seamless services. Due to increased demand owing to work from home, online education, digital transactions, etc., telcos continued network expansion and the the frontline workforce of telecom providers continued to provide services on a regular basis despite grave risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Even today, the telecom warriors continue to work persistently. It would be impossible for people to function – conduct everyday business, bank, learn, utilize tele-health services and simply communicate, all while minimizing exposure if the frontline workers had not been at the forefront.
5. In this regard, we would like to reiterate that with the increase in the number of cases in India, various restrictions are being imposed by some states. However, telecom being an essential service, the Telecom service staff would have to be on the move to keep the networks live 24X7. However, due to sudden rise in the number of cases, there is fear in the minds of these professionals.
6. Hence, it is essential that they are categorised under the frontline workers category so that they are given priority for getting the COVID-19 prevention vaccine.



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Director General

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I request you to treat this on priority and facilitate vaccination for telecom frontline workers.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SP Kochhar", written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

(Lt Gen Dr S P Kochhar)