ITU-APT
Foundation of India

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

Highlights of the Week

IAFI submitted our first set of proposals to the TEC and DOT for the preparatory activities for ITU's World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2020 (WTSA–2020) . These draft contributions were formulated after a series of virtual e-meetings with our expert members during the last two months by a task group under the chairmanship of Shri M. P. Singhal, former advisor, TEC that included a number of our eminent members. A number of senior DOT and TEC officers also attended some of these e-meetings and contributed in preparations of these contributions.

ITU-R WPFD will also be an e-meeting for 3 weeks from 23rd June to 9th July Daily meetings from 17:30 to 20:45 India time. For more details, please contact the secretariat

TOP STORIES :

- **ITU Digital World 2020 Postponed:** As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Ministry of Information and Communications, Viet Nam have taken the difficult decision to postpone ITU Digital World 2020, the global tech event for government, industry and SMEs. The event will now take place as ITU Digital World 2021 in September 2021 in the same venue in Hanoi, Viet Nam. We believe this is the best and safest course of action to ensure the well-being and safety of all event participants and guarantee a successful event.

- **New ITU-UN Report on Frontier Technologies:** Frontier technologies are key tools to combat climate change From cutting emissions in cities to natural disaster risk reduction, frontier technologies in fields such as artificial intelligence, 5G and robotics demonstrate considerable potential to support the battle against climate change, highlights a new ITU/UN report, "Frontier technologies to protect the environment and tackle climate change". The report was released to mark the occasion of Earth Day 2020. The UN report investigates eight fields of innovation: Artificial intelligence (AI); Internet of Things (IoT); 5G; clean energy technology; digital twin; robotics; Space 2.0 technologies; and digitalization and Big Data.

- **Future of Transportation:** In a new initiatives to improve smart transportation, ITU hosted the annual Symposium on the Future Networked Car (FNC-2020) last month , a gathering of top experts that discusses the latest trends in connected cars. The event

discussed the technical, business and regulatory actions required to build public trust in connected, automated vehicles. The event highlighted the state of the art in automotive cybersecurity and explored the status and future of safety-critical radio- communications for the road. Latest developments in the review of regulations governing road transport were presented. FNC-2020 participants also had the opportunity to consider the crucial role of the latest 5G connectivity technologies in delivering safer and more effective transport.

- **The** 5G **spectrum price suggested by the Department of Telecom is too high,** a task force constituted by the finance ministry said, as it recommended rationalising of prices for making the next generation services affordable for all. The industry has unanimously raised the issue of high spectrum price. However, the Department of Telecom (DoT) adopted the spectrum rate as recommended by the sector regulator TRAI. It said for the upcoming auction of 5G airwaves, the DoT has suggested a base price of Rs 492 crore per megahertz, which is very high compared to the base price in countries where 5G is already deployed.

- **China's virus fight brings out the importance of 5G in India -** Chinese administration successfully used their access to ultra-fast 5G wireless broadband networks in responding to the COVID-19. 5G played a critical role in responding to the pandemic through hours of live video calls and video-conferencing to guide Chinese medical workers in the frontlines over 5G networks. The HD cameras, hospital robots and remote-controlled mobile trolleys were also powered by 5G.

- **DOT Support for Local Telecom Manufacturers:** DoT pulls up BSNL for terms and conditions of 4G telecom equipment tender The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has pulled up Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL) for the terms and conditions of its contentious tender floated on March 23 for 4G telecom equipment. Domestic manufacturers say the terms disqualify them from making a bid while favouring global players. DoT said it might take disciplinary action against erring officers where "restrictive conditions have been imposed against domestic manufacturers" in a "mala-fide" fashion. It directed the CMD of BSNL to respond within 15 days. A senior BSNL official confirmed receipt of the DoT letter and said they would respond in time.

- **The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has issued its recommendations on "Review of Television audience measurement and rating system in India, Audience measurement implies measurement of what is being viewed. On the basis of audience measurement data, ratings are assigned to various programs on television. Television ratings in turn influence programs produced for the viewers.