



National Workshop on new 6 GHz Wi-Fi Spectrum

15th July 2020 at 5 PM India Time (GMT+5.30)

Wireless Communications have become a life-line for connecting people when social distancing/physical isolation has become imperative due to global pandemic caused by the COVID19 menace. Wi-Fi already carries more than half of the Internet's traffic and offloading mobile data traffic to Wi-Fi was critical support for our mobile cellular networks from being overwhelmed during the COVID-19 pandemic but is getting choked due to limited unlicensed spectrum.

Thus we need to make more spectrum for Wi-Fi. FCC in USA has recently opened the 6 GHz band, from 5925 MHz to 7125 MHz for unlicensed use, thus creating a massive 1,200 megahertz new frequency band for Wi-Fi, while continuing to share the same with satellites.

This will create a new opportunity for innovators and manufacturers to offer products and technologies to the consumers. This will also increase opportunities for home and industrial products to have increased interconnectivity.

6 GHz band is currently extensively used by satellites for up linking of broadcasting channels as well as by VSAT for providing data connectivity. Therefore it will not be possible to use this band for licensed mobile operators. However, as various studies have shown, this band could be shared by indoor-only low-power Wi-fi routers on an opportunistic basis. Since the band cannot be auctioned, delicensing it for Low Power use will not cause and revenue loss to the Government. On the other hand, this move will add huge economic benefit to the economy and help increase the GDP. In addition, this move will also support, Atamnirbhar India as most of the Wi-Fi routers are fully made in the country.

In order to deliberate on various issues involved and to advocate to the spectrum regulator in India (WPC) to urgently delicense a suitable part of the 6 GHz spectrum for Wi-Fi, we will be hosting a national workshop on this issue on 15th July 2020 from 5 PM, India Standard time.