



ITU-APT FOUNDATION OF INDIA

PRESS RELEASE

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ITU-APT Foundation calls upon Asian governments to release more Wi-Fi and unlicensed spectrum to support global fight against COVID-19

Responding to the increased demand for Working and studying from home due to COVID-19, ITU-APT Foundation of India today called upon Asian countries to delicense 6 GHz (5.925-7.125 GHz), 60 GHz (57-66 GHz) and 70 GHz (66 –71 GHz) bands on priority while making sure that there is adequate protection to the satellites and the fixed links that currently use these frequency bands.

Speaking at a global webinar on “COVID-19: the spectrum policy response” organized by Policy Tracker, Mr Bharat Bhatia, President of the ITU-APT Foundation of India , India’s ITU association, said that maximum connectivity during the COVID-19 lockdown is primarily required at homes and the existing wireless networks were not designed to handle this kind of load from residential areas. Backhaul and last mile connectivity for such a situation needs extensive support from the government in terms of policy and redesigning the regulatory framework, which is straining the 3G/4G/5G cellular mobile networks and also slowing down the home Wi-Fi networks due to limited spectrum for backhaul and last mile.

A copy of his presentation can be found here:

<https://www.policytracker.com/wp-content/uploads/Bharat-Bhatia-COVID-19-SPECTRUM-RESPONSE.pdf>

The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is a non-profit, non-political society and is working for the last 18 years in India with the prime objective of active involvement of telecom sector in the activities of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT). The society has been registered with the registrar of the societies with its secretariat working at New Delhi. ITU-APT Foundation of India has been recognized by the ITU as Regional Telecom Organization and is a Sector Member in the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) and in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T).

The society members are entitled to participate in all the activities of ITU-D and ITU-T. Our members also actively participate in the activities of ITU-R and APT as a part of the Indian Government.

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