July Highlights

Monthly News Summary

Dear Respected Member,

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is delighted to share its previous month's activities with you:

The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG-27-2): Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organized the 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 (APG-27-2) from 28 July to 01 August 2025 in Pattaya, Thailand. The meeting was organized by the APT as physical meeting with remote participation. The main objectives of the APG-27-2 were to develop APT preliminary views on WRC-27 Agenda Items based on input contributions from APT Members. Other issues discussed in the meeting were – (1) to finalise appointment of Vice Chairs, WP Chairs and drafting group chairs for APG-27 (2) to arrange briefing sessions for WPs and DG Chairs (3) to consider the progress in ITU-R Study Groups in relation to WRC-27 Agenda items, and take the actions as appropriate, (4) to review the activities of other regional organisations, in particular, their preliminary views/positions with a view to fostering inter-regional cooperation and (5) to review of issues related to RA-27 and develop preliminary views of APT, if any. The meeting saw a record-breaking attendance of over 733 participants, the highest ever for an APT meeting. This included 508 participants from 27 member states, 59 from 30 affiliate members, and 28 from 7 international organizations. Even, almost 350 + delegates were present physically in the meeting. India played a significant role in the meeting, submitting its preliminary views on 19 WRC-27 agenda items to the APT. These views were based on 20 contributions submitted by IAFI during a National Preparatory Committee (NPC) meeting held in July 2025. India's proposals regarding Agenda Items - 1.1 to 1.6 were discussed in WP-1 meeting, 1.7 to 1.10 in WP-2, 1.11 to 1.14 in WP-3, 1.15 to 1.18 in WP-4 and Agenda Item -8 in WP-5 meeting, alongwith many other proposals of various countries, covering a wide range of agenda items for WRC-27. Meeting concluded with great success, and it was decided that the next APG-27-3 meeting will be held in Japan during July 2026.

Shri Bharat Bhatia elected as Chair, Editorial Committee for APG-27: During the Heads of Delegation meetings at APG27-1 and APG27-2, discussions were held regarding the leadership roles for the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity's Conference Preparatory Group for WRC- 27 (APG-27). Following these discussions and a recommendation from the Heads of Delegation meeting at APG27-2, it was unanimously agreed that Shri Bharat Bhatia from the Republic of India will serve as both the Chair of the Editorial Committee and, by virtue of that role, a Vice-Chair of APG-27. This decision reflects a spirit of cooperation among the participating nations. His nomination was well covered by the media and further details can be seen at -
Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI elected as Vice-Chair APG-27

IAFI hosted lunch for the APG delegates during APG-27-2 meeting at Pattaya, Thailand: During the APG-27-2 meeting in Pattaya, Thailand, ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) hosted a lunch for all delegates, on July 29, 2025. This event was a goodwill gesture and served as an opportunity to promote the candidacy of Ms. M. Revathi Mannepalli, India's nominee for the position of Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) at the ITU. Ms. M. Revathi Mannepalli, Joint Wireless Advisor in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), has been nominated candidate for the position of Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This nomination is a significant move for India, marking its most substantial bid in decades for a top leadership role in global radio spectrum governance. Ms. Revathi currently serves as a member of the ITU's Radio Regulations Board (RRB), where she has been a strong advocate for equitable and efficient spectrum use. If elected, she would be the first woman and the first representative from ITU Asia/Africa/Australia regions to lead the Radiocommunication Bureau.

DoT issued draft New Telecom Policy – 2025: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 24-07-2025 issued a draft National Telecom Policy (NTP), 2025, for public consultation. This policy aims to transform India into a "Telecom Product Nation" by focusing on universal connectivity, infrastructure development, and boosting the telecommunications sector's contribution to the GDP. The policy sets ambitious targets, including 100% 4G and 90% 5G coverage by 2030, along with initiatives to enhance fiberization, public Wi-Fi, innovation, telecom equipment manufacturing & export and many more. Details of the new telecom policy - 2025 can be seen at Draft New Telecom Policy – 2025.
Draft New Telecom Policy - 2025

Brief about the APT-WTDC-25-4 meeting: The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) held its 4th Preparatory Group Meeting for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-4) in Pattaya, Thailand, from July 14–18, 2025, to coordinate regional inputs for the upcoming ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) in Baku this November. The meeting drew 170 participants, including representatives from 28 member countries and 14 affiliate organizations. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of IAFI, attended in person and presented five input documents, one in WG-1 and four in WG- 2, while other IAFI members joined virtually. A total of 54 documents were discussed across three Working Groups, resulting in 15 Candidate Draft Provisional Asia-Pacific Common Proposals (Candidate PACPs) for future review. The session also saw a leadership change, with Shri S.K. Gupta of India's DoT appointed as the new Chair of WG- 1, following the resignation of Brig Gen Mohammad Khalil-Ur-Rahman of BTRC, Bangladesh.

The 4th NSG-6 (corresponding to the SG-6 of ITU-R): The 4th meeting of NSG-6 was organized by the WPC wing in a hybrid mode on July 16, 2025. The meeting considered a key contribution from IAFI. Their proposal focused on strengthening ITU-R Report BT.2299-3, which deals with broadcasting for disaster warning and relief. Drawing on ITU-R Report M.2291-2, IAFI advocated integrating International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) broadband into public protection and disaster relief (PPDR) systems. The aim is to create a unified, resilient framework combining traditional broadcasting and IMT technologies for more effective disaster response. The proposal was thoroughly discussed, with further deliberations scheduled for a follow-up meeting on July 22, 2025, at Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi.

5th meeting of the NWG-20 meeting (corresponding to SG-20/ITU-T): The fifth virtual meeting of National Working Group-20 (NWG-20) was organized by the satellite (IoT) division of the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) on July 15, 2025. This group corresponds to ITU-T Study Group 20 (SG-20), which focuses on "Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Twins and Smart Sustainable Cities & Communities (SSC&C)" for the 2025-2028 study period. The meeting was chaired by Shri R.S. Singh, DDG (IoT), TEC. The primary objective of this NWG-20 meeting was to discuss and finalize contributions for the upcoming ITU-T SG20 Regional Group for Asia and the Pacific (SG20RG-AP) meeting, scheduled for August 4-5, 2025. A total of nine documents were thoroughly reviewed during the session. Shri Sushil Kumar, Ex- Additional DGT, DoT and Chairman of the ITU-T Study Group-20 Regional Group for Asia Pacific (RG-AP), highlighted the significant progress SG- 20 has achieved since its establishment in 2015, including the release of numerous recommendations over the past decade. He personally presented four updated contributions, along with one joint contribution with M/s IDEMIA. It was also informed that the next SG-20/RG-AP meeting will indeed take place virtually from August 4-5, 2025.

India submitted 5 contributions to upcoming APG-27-2 meeting containing proposals on 19 agenda items of WRC-27: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2) was taken place in Pattaya, Thailand, from July 28 to August 1, 2025. This hybrid meeting, organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), allowed for both in-person and remote participation. IAFI submitted 20 contributions covering WRC-27 Agenda Items 1.1 through 1.19 and Item 8 to the NPC. These were thoroughly discussed and finalized during the 2nd National Preparatory Committee (NPC) meeting on July 11, 2025, where India's final positions were established. All IAFI proposals were largely accepted, with only minor editorial adjustments. Key discussions revolved around Agenda Item 1.7 (sharing and compatibility studies for three IMT spectrum bands), Agenda Item 8 (inclusion of India's name in footnote 5.457D for 6425-7125 MHz IMT allocation), and Agenda Item 1.19 (use of 4200-4400 MHz for study). IAFI notably opposed Agenda Item 1.19 due to its impact on the highly sensitive radio altimeter frequency band used by aircraft pilots. IAFI President, Shri Bharat Bhatia, along with other members, successfully advocated for IAFI's proposals, particularly Agenda Item 8, which secured final approval. These proposals were submitted to the APG27-2 meeting on July 18, 2025.

APT Preparatory Group for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (APT PP-26): The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) convened the 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (APT PP26-1) on July 18, 2025. Held in a hybrid format in Pattaya, Thailand, the meeting combined physical attendance with online participation via Zoom. The primary role of the APT Preparatory Group for ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences (APT-PP) is to help APT member states prepare for the upcoming ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (ITU PPs). This involves coordinating issues of regional interest and developing unified regional contributions to the conference. Historically, the APT-PP has been crucial in formulating APT Common Proposals that represent the collective interests of its members. The inaugural meeting saw robust participation, with 171 members attending, including 141 individuals from 27 countries. Nineteen input documents were thoroughly considered during the session. These preparatory activities mark the beginning of APT's efforts for PP-26, which is set to be held in Doha, Qatar, from November 9 to 27, 2026.

IAFI press release regarding TRAI's Consultation Paper on Microwave Spectrum: The IAFI in a press release submitted that it has comprehensive recommendations to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in response to its latest consultation paper on the "Assignment of Microwave Spectrum" across various frequency bands, including 6 GHz (lower), 7 GHz, 13 GHz, 15 GHz, 18 GHz, 21 GHz, E-band, and V-band. IAFI strongly supports TRAI's initiative to review and rationalize spectrum allocation. These recommendations come at a time when India is scaling up its digital infrastructure to support the rapid growth of 5G and prepare for 6G and future wireless broadband technologies. IAFI has strongly advised against any further spectrum assignments in the lower and upper 6 GHz, 7 GHz, and 15 GHz bands for backhaul purposes. These bands, it noted, are being increasingly refarmed to serve the growing demand for last-mile wireless connectivity through unlicensed Wi-Fi and for access services by mobile operators deploying 5G and planning for 6G.

India Space Policy Conference-2025 (ISPC-25):: The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) hosted its 2nd India Space Policy Conference 2025 from July 24-25, 2025, at the Imperial Hotel, Janpath, New Delhi. This two-day event drew a significant crowd of 250 delegates, including senior government officials, industry executives, academia, and startups. The conference served as a pivotal platform to foster synergy among diverse stakeholders. Attendees included representatives from ISRO, IN-SPACe, NSIL, DoT, WPC, TEC, TRAI, and key international satellite organizations like the Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA), Viasat, Inmarsat, and the Satellite Industry Association (SIA) and many industry players and startups. The goal was to highlight emerging opportunities and promote collaborative development within the Indian satellite ecosystem.
The conference officially commenced with an opening address by Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI. He lauded the liberalization of the Indian space sector, emphasizing its significant potential for job creation and new investments. In an interview with ANI (details available at https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/indias-space-sector- evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia/amp), Mr. Bhatia further highlighted how allowing the private sector to conduct end-to-end space activities would attract substantial new investments and generate employment opportunities.
Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI, served as the Chief Guest for the Inaugural Session. Alongside distinguished dignitaries including Ms. Isabelle Mauro, Director General, Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA); Shri Gautam Sharma, MD, Viasat, India; and Ms. Revathi Mannepalli, JWA, Government of India and Member Radio Regulatory Board, ITU, Mr. Lahoti delivered a keynote speech. He underscored the transformative impact of the new Space Policy-2023 in fostering private sector and startup participation across the satellite ecosystem. He also referenced TRAI's recent balanced regulatory recommendations, including a 4% AGR for five years for GSO/NGSO. His address garnered significant media attention, with further details accessible at https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/lahoti-emphasizes-satellite- connectivity-digital-inclusion-at-ispc-25/.
Session-1 of the conference was regarding the India's Space Policy Framework and Recent Reforms and many prominent speakers featured insightful keynote addresses, including Shri Arun Agrawal (DDG Satellite, DoT), Shri Vinay Paliwal (Deputy Director, Programme Management and Authorization Directorate, IN-SPACe), Lt General Anil Kumar Bhatt (DG, Indian Space Association - ISpA), Shri H Rayappa (Director, Satellite Communication Programme Office, ISRO HQ, Govt. of India), Mr. Tony Azzarelli (Vice President, Eutelsat OneWeb), and Dr. Laura Roberti (Director for Spectrum & Market Access, Telesat). Their contributions provided comprehensive perspectives on the nation's transformative space landscape.
Session 2 of the conference was regarding the Spectrum Issues for satellite Services and WRC-27 and keynote Speakers were -Shri Amit Gulati, Sr. DWA, WPC, DoT; Dr. Laura Roberti, Director for Spectrum & Market Access, Telesat; Ms. J Sofi, Associate Director (Frequency Management), Satellite Communication Programme Office ISRO HQ, India and Ms. Marta Donate Fuente, Spectrum Engineer, Eutelsat OneWeb.
Session 3 addressed the critical topic of "Present and Future Spectrum Needs of Defence services, Civil Aviation and Maritime Safety and Security." The session was expertly chaired by Shri Gulab Chand, JWA, WPC Wing, DoT. Keynote speakers who provided valuable insights included- Mr. Laurent Parente, DG, IMSO; Mr. John Dodd, Director of Safety Services, Inmarsat; Brig. Rahul Anand, Director JCES, Integrated Defence Staff, MOD, India; Shri Vivek Banzal, Director, CFA, BSNL Board; Ms. Donna Bethea-Murphy, SVP, Regulatory, Viasat; Shri Lokesh Kabdal, Co-founder & CEO, AeroDome; Mr. Bashir Patel, Senior Advisor, Policy, Regulatory, and Spectrum, Inmarsat. In a media interview with ANI, Shri Gulab Chand provided further detail on the complexities of Direct-to-Device (D2D) services in India. His insights can be found at: https://www.malaysiasun.com/news/278467543/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite- internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot- advisor.

Day-2 activities:

Inaugural session and Session -4 was dedicated to Direct to Device Satellite communications. Shri Deb Kumar Chakrabarti, Advisor, DoT was the chief guest for the inaugural session. Many key note speakers were - Ms. Isabelle Mauro, DG, GSOA; Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, Director, DCPW; Shri N K Bhola, Director WMO, DoT; Mr. Udrivolf Pica, Spectrum and Regulatory Affairs- ITU Lead, SpaceX; Ms. Sonali Nanda, Deputy Director, PMAD, IN-SPACe; Shri M P S Alawa, JWA, DoT and Shri Jitendra Singh, Head, Government Affairs, Qualcomm. In a media interview, the Chief Guest highlighted the crucial role of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the satellite sector, emphasizing its potential to connect rural India. Further details from his speech are available at: https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/telecom-innovation- accelerated-by-fdi-dot-highlights-satellite-internet-for-rural-india/122907803
Session-5 and 6 were regarding the Viksit Bharat and distinguished key note speakers were –Shri T.R Dua, Chairman, IAFI; Shri R S Singh, DDG (IOT), TEC; Ms. Mariona Pazos Rovira, Regulatory Affairs and Licensing Specialist, Americas and APAC, Sateliot; Shri Mukesh Kumar, DDG Radio, TEC ; Shri H Rayappa, Director, Satellite Communication Programme Office ISRO HQ; Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, Director, DCPW; Shri Prabhat Dikshit, DDG (SMC), DoT; Shri Utpal Bhowmick, India B2B Business Lead, Amazon Kuiper; Shri Alok Shankar Pandey, Group General Manager (Information Technology) & Chief Information Security Officer, DFCCI Ltd.
Closing session was regarding the discussions on Space Sustainability, discussing responsible practices for long-term space operations, including the prevention of space debris and managing collision risks. Key note speakers were Shri H C Soni, Vice President, IAFI and Ms. Donna Bethea-Murphy, SVP, Regulatory, Viasat. The conference provided a vital platform for interaction and debate, with sessions featuring keynote speeches, panel discussions, and technical presentations from experts and decision-makers. It aimed to shape the future of India's satellite sector, promoting investment, innovation, and international cooperation to solidify India's position as a major player in the global space economy. Very first time, entire event was well covered by the media.

5th Meeting of the National Study Group-6 (NSG-6): The 5th meeting of NSG-6 (corresponding to SG-6/ITU-R) convened on July 22, 2025, in a hybrid format, with the physical session held at the Spectrum Room, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi. The agenda focused on two key contributions for submission to the WP-6A meeting:
A preliminary draft revision of ITU-R BT.1877-3, concerning error-correction, data framing, modulation, emission methods, and selection guidance for second-generation digital terrestrial television broadcasting systems, was presented by DDG (Doordarshan). Input from IAFI and other members were incorporated, and the finalized contribution is now ready for submission.
IAFI Contribution: IAFI presented a contribution titled "Broadcasting for Public Warning, Disaster Mitigation and Relief." It was decided that IAFI would revise this document as a modification to an existing working document, following consultation with C-DoT on developed cell broadcast technologies for disaster warning.
Rapporteur Nomination -Due to the sudden demise of Sh. R.C. Kota, the position of Rapporteur for NSG-6 was vacant. Sh. Prakash Sonkamble, Deputy Director, IMS Mumbai, was nominated as the new Rapporteur. Additionally, Sh. Vaibhav Chhabra, Engineer WMS Lucknow, has been co-opted to assist with NSG-6 activities.
The next NSG-6 meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2025, at 16:30 Hrs, in a hybrid mode.

IAFI submitted comments on DoT draft gazette notification GSR-411 (E): On June 24, 2025, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) published draft Gazette Notification GSR-411(E). This notification proposes amendments to the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024, and invited public objections and suggestions within 30 days of its publication. IAFI after due consultations with its industry partners, submitted the detailed inputs to the Joint Secretary (Telecom), DoT on 23-07-2025.

IAFI submitted its comments on TRAI consultation paper on MWA/MWB spectrum: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper (05/2025) on May 28, 2025, regarding "Assignment of the Microwave Spectrum in 6 GHz (lower), 7 GHz, 13 GHz, 15 GHz, 18 GHz, 21 GHz Bands, E (71-86 GHz) Band, and V (57-71 GHz) Band, invited written comments from the stakeholders, considering the allocation of 6425-7125 MHz to IMT, delicensing of 5925-6425 MHz for low-power Wi-Fi use and the potential allocation of 7125-8400 MHz and 14.80-15.35 GHz to IMT under WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.7 and many other issues. IAFI after due consultation with its stakeholders, submitted detailed comments to TRAI.

IAFI submitted five updated contributions to APT-WTDC-25-4: The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) hosted the 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (WTDC-25-4) in Pattaya, Thailand, from July 14 to 18, 2025. This crucial meeting was aimed to help APT members prepare for the upcoming ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25), which will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 17 to 28, 2025. IAFI has submitted five key contributions for the WTDC-25-4 meeting. These proposals, originally presented at the last APT-WTDC-25-3 meeting, now updated based on suggestions/feedback received from several countries, including Australia, Iran, Malaysia, China, and Japan. The revised contributions submitted are: INF-11: Proposed Modifications to WTDC Resolution 78; INF-12: Proposed Modifications to WTDC Resolution 79; INF-13: Proposal of a New Resolution on ITU's Role in Facilitating Connectivity through Various Satellite Systems: Bridging the Digital Divide; INF-14: Proposed Modifications to WTDC Resolution 63; INF-15: Proposed Modifications to Resolution 69. These updated documents proposed to be further discussed at the upcoming WTDC-25-4 meeting from 14 th to 18 th July 2025.

Special meeting of the Working Group-4 (WG-4) prior to NPC for WRC-27: The first hybrid meeting of Working Group-4 (WG-4) took place on June 30, 2025, under the chairmanship of Shri A.K. Soni, Joint Wireless Advisor, WPC Wing. WG-4 focused on Agenda Items 1.15, 1.16, 1.17, 1.18, and 1.19 for WRC-27. IAFI submitted proposals for all five agenda items, recommending further study for all except Agenda Item 1.19. For 1.19, IAFI argued against further study due to the extreme sensitivity of the 4200- 4400 MHz band, being used by aviation radio altimeters. Due to controversial views from other stakeholders, the WG-4 Chair decided to defer Agenda Item 1.19 until the next APG meeting (APG-27-3). The National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) requested WG-4 Chair for a special meeting before NPC (as scheduled for 11.07.2025) and submitted inputs for agenda items 1.16, 1.17, 1.18 and 1.19 for kind consideration of the WG-4. So, a special meeting was arranged on 10-07-2025 and it was decided by the chair that, being a special meeting, no other document will be discussed except the proposal of NCRA. NCRA proposals were discussed in detail. Even after detailed discussion, consensus on preliminary views on Agenda Item 1.19 could not be achieved due to divergent views of stakeholders. The meeting again agreed to not send any proposal to NPC at this stage. The meeting further agreed to have offline/email thread discussion among the stakeholders and submit the outcome to WG 4 before next meeting of APG-27-3. It was decided that offline discussion shall be led by Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI with members from stakeholders including GMRT and Shri R C Malik, DWA.

Second meeting of National Preparatory Committee for WRC-27 Preparations (NPC-WRC-27): The second meeting of the National Preparatory Committee (NPC) for WRC-2027 was held on 11- 07-2025, under the chairmanship of Shri V. J. Christopher, Wireless Adviser, DoT. Many senior officers of WPC wing, DoT, AAI, NCRA, ISRO, IMD and senior executive from Qualcomm, Ericsson, GSMA, COAI, Tata Communications, BIF, Nokia, SIA-India and many more attended the meeting. Meeting was held from Spectrum Room, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, in a hybrid mode. It was a marathon meeting from 1630 to 2030 hrs. Primary objective of the meeting was to finalize the proposals to be submitted to the upcoming meeting of APG-27-2, likely to be held from 28 th July to 01 st Aug, 2025 at Thailand. There were 19 agenda items of WRC-27, from AI-1.1 to 1.18 and AI-8, discussed in the meeting and finalized the final view of India. Significant debate arose over Agenda Item 1.7, concerning sharing and compatibility studies for three spectrum bands proposed for IMT, and Agenda Item 8, which involved including India's name in footnote 5.457D. Notably, NCRA and some participants sought to re-open Agenda Item 1.19, but the session chair denied the request, confirming it was not on the meeting agenda. The chair reiterated that India's positions on all agenda items must be submitted to APG-27-2 by July 18, 2025, and approval of the competent authority is required before submission of the proposal. So, no more session of the NPC can be organized for further discussion.

Meeting of the working group on Satellite based IoT solutions: The IoT Division of the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) organized the sixth virtual meeting of the working group on "Satellite based IoT solutions" on July 10, 2025. The meeting was chaired by Shri R. S. Singh, DDG (IoT), TEC. Key participants included senior government officers such as Shri Arun Agarwal, DDG (Satellite), DoT HQ, and Shri Prabhat Dikshit, DDG (Satellite Monitoring Centre), DoT. Senior executives from Qualcomm, including Shri Jitendra Singh, Vice- President, and Dr. Punit Rathod, Lead Technical Standards also attended the meeting alongside other stakeholders. During his keynote address, Shri Arun Agarwal, DDG, requested details of the document submitted by India at the WP-4A meeting (4A/536) concerning unauthorized NGSO FSS/MSS user terminals operating in various countries, as previously mentioned by Shri Misha Bajpai from IAFI. The moderator agreed to forward the document to him for further review. A significant part of the meeting involved a presentation by Qualcomm, which provided an insightful overview of the framework and technical details concerning the operation of IoT devices via satellite. Additionally, IAFI presented a contribution focusing on the application of Satellite IoT devices in rural, remote, and hilly areas for public safety, security, and disaster management, suggesting funding through the Bharat Nidhi Fund (formerly USOF). Due to the extensive technical details presented by Qualcomm, the Chairman desire for a dedicated session in the near future to facilitate a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

49th meeting of ITU-R WP-5D concludes on July 3, 2025: The 49th WP-5D Meeting was held in Kobe, Japan from June 24 to July 3, 2025. IAFI President Shri Bharat Bhatia, Vice Chairman Shri Jitendra Singh, and Member Shri Sendil Kumar Devar attended the event physical representing the Indian administration. Shri Bharat Bhatia chaired the Working Group on General Aspects, while Shri Jitendra Singh chaired the Sub-Working Group on Specific Applications of IMT. The meeting was attended by 650 participants, including 385 representatives from 57 administrations and 215 delegates representing industries, service providers, and sector members, alongside ITU staff and two UN representatives. A substantial volume of work was covered, with 237 new contributions were discussed. A significant 83 contributions from various administrations and sector members were submitted specifically for Agenda Item 1.7 which seek to consider new frequency bands for 6G. The meeting also considered a new proposal from IAFI, proposing revisions to ITU-R Report M.2291-2 (12/2021) on the use of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) for PPDR applications. This proposal was agreed and a working document was developed to commence this activity.

First meeting of the Working Group 4 (WG-4) under NPC/DoT: The first hybrid meeting of Working Group-4 (WG-4) of the National Preparatory Committee (NPC) took place on June 30, 2025. Chaired by Shri A.K. Soni, Joint Wireless Advisor, WPC Wing, WG-4 focused on Agenda Items 1.15, 1.16, 1.17, 1.18, and 1.19 for WRC-27. Several IAFI members attended, including President Shri Bharat Bhatia, who joined virtually from Kobe, Japan, while attending the WP-5D meeting. IAFI submitted proposals for all five agenda items, recommending further study for all except Agenda Item 1.19. For 1.19, IAFI argued against further study due to the extreme sensitivity of the 4200-4400 MHz band, which is crucial for aviation radio altimeters. Due to controversial views from other stakeholders, the Chair decided to defer Agenda Item 1.19 until the next APG meeting (APG-27-3). IAFI also agreed to submit revised proposals for Agenda Items 1.15 and 1.18, incorporating minor updates suggested by other stakeholders.

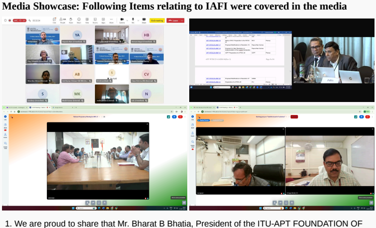
Meeting of the Working Group-2 (WG-2) of National Preparatory Committee: The first meeting of Working Group (WG)-2 of NPC for the WRC-27 was held on July 5, 2025, chaired by Sh. Gulab Chand, JWA, WPC/DoT. The primary goal was to begin formulating India's preliminary views on WRC-27 Agenda Items 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, and 1.10, focusing on Fixed, Mobile, and Radiolocation issues. Proposals from IAFI were extensively discussed, with valuable inputs from ISRO and the Airport Authority of India (AAI), alongside contributions from industry and government. For Agenda Item 1.7 (IMT Spectrum Identification), India generally supports ongoing studies for IMT across the 4400-4800 MHz, 7125-8400 MHz, and 14.8-15.35 GHz bands. A key concern, strongly voiced by AAI and JCES, is the crucial protection of Radio Altimeters (RA) and Wireless Avionics Intra-Communications (WAIC) in the adjacent 4200-4400 MHz band. Industry noted that updated RA/WAIC performance characteristics, vital for further sharing studies, are expected by November 2025. Regarding Agenda Item 1.8 (Radiolocation Service Allocations), all participants unanimously backed IAFI's view supporting ITU-R studies for additional radiolocation spectrum in the 231.5-700 GHz range, emphasizing the need for robust protection of primary services. Regarding Agenda Item 1.9 (Aeronautical Mobile HF Modernization), the meeting unanimously supported IAFI's proposal for ITU-R studies to update Appendix 26 of the Radio Regulations, aiming for efficient HF band use and higher data rates, while ensuring the protection of existing aeronautical HF safety communication systems, as specifically incorporated from AAI's input. Finally, for Agenda Item 1.10 (PFD/EIRP Limits for Satellite Services), the meeting unanimously supported IAFI's proposal for ongoing studies to develop power flux-density and equivalent isotropically radiated power limits to protect fixed and mobile services in the 71-76 GHz and 81-86 GHz bands.

NCA-T Webinar on Critical Telecom Infrastructure Rules, 2024" & "Telecom Cyber Security Rules, 2024: On July 2, 2025, NCA-T, ALTTC, DoT, Ghaziabad hosted a significant webinar focusing on the recently enacted "Critical Telecom Infrastructure Rules, 2024" and "Telecom Cyber Security Rules, 2024." The webinar's primary objective was to thoroughly explain to participants the critical necessity of these new regulations. The Critical Telecom Infrastructure Rules, 2024, are designed to fortify the security, resilience, and operational continuity of telecommunications networks, which serve as the indispensable backbone of digital societies. With the ever-increasing demand for seamless connectivity and reliable communication, these rules prioritize safeguarding critical infrastructure from a spectrum of threats, including cyberattacks, natural disasters, and geopolitical risks.
Furthermore, the Telecom Cyber Security Rules, 2024, were expounded upon, detailing their purpose in protecting the vital telecom infrastructure that powers our connected world. By introducing a robust framework of security protocols and compliance measures, these rules aim to achieve several key objectives like Strengthen Cyber Resilience, Protect User Data, Enhance Network Integrity and Facilitate Incident Response Readiness. This webinar provided a comprehensive understanding of these pivotal rules, emphasizing their role in building a more secure and resilient telecommunications ecosystem for India's digital future.

Press release may be seen here:

1. https://aninews.in/news/business/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia20250724180156/
2. https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/portal-in-portal/satcom/indias- space-sector-set-for-growth-job-creation-and-investment-opportunities-unveiled-by-iafi-president/122884827
3. https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia/
4. https://www.lokmattimes.com/business/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia/
5. https://english.newsnationtv.com/business/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia20250724180156
6. https://www.newkerala.com/news/o/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-job-creation-investments-iafi-548
7. https://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/Business/20250724/4341998.html
8. https://tagtv.info/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia/
9. https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/business-news-indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia-7019251.html
10. https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/aniengliish-epaper-anieng/india+s+space+sector+evolved+primed+for+job+creation+investments+iafi+president+bharat+bhatia-newsid-n673933131?listname=newspaperLanding&index=139&topicIndex=3&mode=pwa&action=click
11. https://www.indianeconomicobserver.com/news/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia20250724180129/
12. https://www.kashmirbreakingnews.com/news/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia20250724180129/
13. https://aninews.in/news/business/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for- rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174309/
14. https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/telecom-innovation-accelerated-by-fdi-dot-highlights-satellite-internet-for-rural-india/122907803
15. https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor/
16. https://www.lokmattimes.com/business/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor/
17. https://english.newsnationtv.com/business/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet- key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174309
18. https://english.newsnationtv.com/business/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet- key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174309
19. https://tagtv.info/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india- department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor/
20. https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/business-news-fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation- satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor-7021760.html
21. https://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/Business/20250725/4342409.html
22. https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/aniengliish-epaper-anieng/fdi+fueling+telecom+innovation+satellite+internet+key+for+rural+india+department+of+telecommunications+dot+advisor-newsid-n674073698?listname=newspaperLanding&index=51&topicIndex=3&mode=pwa&action=click
23. https://www.indianeconomicobserver.com/news/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174303/
24. https://www.kashmirbreakingnews.com/news/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174303/
25. https://aninews.in/news/business/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250726152627/
26. https://www.aninews.in/news/business/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725193305/
27. https://news.abplive.com/business/startups-building-satellite-parts-india-s-space-sector-gears-up-for-big-future-1790739
28. https://www.lokmattimes.com/business/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor-1/
29. https://www.awazthevoice.in/gadgets-news/space-startups-gain-ground-in-india-for-satellite-internet-push-39550.html
30. https://tagtv.info/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor-2/
31. https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/aniengliish-epaper-anieng/enterprise+demand+to+drive+satellite+internet+space+startups+gaining+ground+in+india+department+of+telecommunications+dot+advisor-newsid-n674090489?listname=newspaperLanding&topic=business&index=0&topicIndex=3&mode=pwa
32. https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/business-news-enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot- advisor-7022028.html
33. https://english.newsnationtv.com/business/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725193305
34. https://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/Business/20250725/4342432.html
35. https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor/
36. https://www.indianeconomicobserver.com/news/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174303/
37. https://www.newkerala.com/news/o/enterprise-demand-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-370
38. https://www.dailyprabhat.com/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor/
39. https://www.kashmirbreakingnews.com/news/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725193302/

Media Showcase: Following Items relating to IAFI were covered in the media



1. We are proud to share that Mr. Bharat B Bhatia, President of the ITU-APT FOUNDATION OF INDIA (IAFI), has been nominated as Chair of the Editorial Committee for the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG-27), from the Republic of India. This prestigious nomination—made on the recommendation of the Heads of Delegation during the 2nd Meeting of APG27 (APG27-2)—recognizes the role of Editorial Committee Chair as being equivalent to Vice Chair of the Plenary. The proposal, formally moved by Read More
2. TRAI Chairman Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, speaking at ISPC-25 in New Delhi, highlighted the vital role of satellite communication in bridging India's digital divide and advancing national inclusion goals. He emphasized TRAI's balanced recommendations, including a 4% AGR fee for satellite spectrum use, to support industry growth. Lahoti also stressed the importance of non-terrestrial networks (NTNs) in enabling nationwide connectivity and achieving UN SDGs. Read More
3. India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has highlighted satellite internet as a key solution for expanding connectivity in rural and remote regions, where laying traditional networks like fiber or microwave is challenging. With 100% FDI permitted in the sector, DoT is promoting telecom manufacturing under the upcoming Telecom Policy 2025. Satellite services are expected to grow as devices shrink and become more smartphone-compatible. Read More
4. IAFI Hosts National Conference on "Wi-Fi in 6GHz: Unlocking the Future of Innovation" on World Wi-Fi Day 2025 New Delhi, 19 June 2025. To commemorate World Wi-Fi Day, the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) hosted a national conference in New Delhi on the theme "Wi-Fi in 6GHz: Unlocking the Future of Innovation". The event brought together over 200 participants from government, industry, and academia to discuss India's evolving spectrum policy, with a focus on the lower 6GHz band (5925–6425 MHz) Read More
5. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has partnered with the Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA) for the 2nd IAFI Space Policy Conference, to be held on 24–25 July 2025 in New Delhi. The conference will spotlight India's growing space sector, key policy reforms, and global collaborations. Read More
6. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) applauds the Government of India for delicensing the lower 6 GHz band (5925–6425 MHz), a transformative move that enables next-gen Wi-Fi technologies like Wi-Fi 6E and 7. This step will accelerate affordable broadband access, especially in rural areas, and bolster initiatives like PM-WANI and BharatNet. The decision unlocks new opportunities for digital innovation, local manufacturing, and economic growth, aligning India with over 100 nations embracing unli Read More
7. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) welcomes TRAI's progressive recommendations on spectrum assignment for satellite communications, released in May 2025. These long-awaited guidelines provide clarity on spectrum use across key frequency bands for both GSO and NGSO systems, aligning with India's NFAP 2022. IAFI commends TRAI's balanced approach, which fosters industry growth, promotes digital inclusion, and supports rural connectivity. The recommendations pave the way for investment, innovati Read More
8. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has formally appealed to the Hon'ble Minister of Communications to delicense the 5925–6425 MHz band (Lower 6 GHz) to support high-speed Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7 connectivity. The request follows the government's recent move to open new spectrum bands for mobile services, and highlights the urgent need to complement this with unlicensed spectrum for next-generation Wi-Fi. Globally adopted in over 100 countries, the lower 6 GHz band is vital for India's digital t Read More
9. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) held its 2nd Preparatory Workshop for WRC-27 on April 7, 2025, in New Delhi. The event saw participation from over 150 government officials, industry leaders, and experts across the telecom and satellite sectors. Supported by DoT, WPC, and leading organizations like ISRO, Qualcomm, Ericsson, OneWeb, GSMA, IN-SPACe, Bharat 6G Alliance, and GSOA, the workshop featured in-depth deliberations on key WRC-27 agenda items including 6G and satellite spectrum polici Read More
10. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) supported the 53rd Wireless World Research Forum (WWRF) conference, hosted by BITS Pilani Hyderabad from February 18-20, 2025. Focused on "Smart Wireless Systems for Collective Prosperity in a Green Future," the event brought together global experts, researchers, and industry leaders to explore advancements in 6G, AI, IoT, and sustainable communications. Shri Bharat Bhatia, Vice Chair of WWRF & President of IAFI, emphasized the role of next-gen wireless tec Read More
11. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has urged the Ministry of Communications to expedite spectrum allocation for satellite services, emphasizing the need for regulatory clarity to advance India's digital connectivity goals. With rapid advancements in satellite technologies like LEO and MEO constellations, delays in approvals are hindering efforts to bridge the digital divide. IAFI highlights the importance of integrating satellite and terrestrial networks to drive innovation and economic grow Read More

Links to our Activities & Programmes

1) Letter to The Joint Secretary (Telecom) Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India for IAFI comments/suggestions on the DoT Notification No. G.S.R.- 411(E), regarding draft Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024, issued on 24-06-2025.

2) Letter to The Joint Secretary (Telecom) Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India for IAFI comments on the DoT Notification No. G.S.R.316 (E) – Lower 6GHz Wi-Fi

3) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Urgent Need for Delicensing the 5925–6425 MHz Band to Support Innovation and Make in India

4) Letter to Wireless Advisor to the Government of India, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India , Shri V J Christopher for Request for Consideration of Allowing Lower Size Antennas less than 1.2 M in the Lower Ku-Band (13.75-14 GHz)

5) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Spectrum Allocation for 6G in India

6) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Urgent Need for Spectrum Assignment and Regulatory Clarity for Satellite Services

7) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Strategic Spectrum Allocation for R&D and Regulatory Sandbox to Propel India's Leadership in 6G

8) Letter to Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Shri P K Mishra for PMO Support needed for Innovation and Local Manufacturing

9) Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India Request for IAFI's recommendation for Delicensing of Captive 5G networks under Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

10) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways Request for Industry consultation on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023

11) Letter to Secretary, Ministry of Power Request for Implementing Green Open Access Rules for the Telecom Sector in States/UTs

12) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of MTCTE

13) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Devices under MTCTE

14) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services

IAFI MEMBERSHIP

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is a non-profit, non-political, non-partisan Industry foundation registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1960. IAFI has been working for the last 20 years with the prime objective of encouraging the involvement of professionals, corporate, public/private sector industries, R&D organizations, academic institutions, and such other agencies engaged in the development of the Indian Telecom sector. The members of IAFI are corporate members are 28 and individual members to 135 making a total of 163 members. The EC also emphasized on the Creation of a new member category for academia and a campaign to register Eminent educational institutes as members.

The benefits provided to the members include an invitation to all the events of the Foundation which include: Training programs, seminars, workshops, etc. conducted by the society on a complimentary basis. Besides, EC Members will also have access to information related to ITU and APT and other telecom journals where members can subscribe. Members are further eligible to participate in ITU-T, ITU-D, and APT activities. The individual Membership Fee of IAFI has been reversed to the previous fee that was applicable since the beginning. Please click: Membership details

Partners Association

Activities in our focus areas during August 2024

Our understanding of creativity, truth, and integrity is undergoing a radical transformation with the rise of artificial intelligence (AI). AI-generated and -edited content is becoming the new norm, especially among younger, AI-native communicators and consumers. The risks and rewards of this, meanwhile, can be hard to distinguish. Synthetic media, once a novel anomaly, is now seamlessly woven into our cultural fabric – reshaping communication, democratizing access to content-creation tools, and simultaneously challenging long-standing assumptions about authenticity and trust.

On 1 July 2025, the APT Secretariat celebrated APT Day at the APT Headquarters in Bangkok. This occasion marks the date on which the APT Secretariat began functioning on 1 July 1979, following the establishment of its premises at the General Post Office Headquarters on Charoen Krung Road. Led by Dr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of the APT, the event provided an opportunity for the Secretariat staff to reflect on the APT's long-standing journey and its steadfast commitment to fostering regional cooperation in telecommunications and ICT. The APT Secretariat looks forward to continuing its work with all members and partners to advance the shared objectives of the Telecommunity.

सत्यमेव जयते
Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has said the process of approving TRAI's recommendations on satellite communications (SatCom) spectrum will take a couple of months, adding that the pricing mechanism for satellite spectrum cannot follow the telecom model due to its shared nature. Speaking to CNBC-TV18, Scindia said, "TRAI has submitted their recommendations to us only in early May, and the DoT is now examining those recommendations. We are in dialogue with TRAI. It's important for DoT and TRAI to have that conversation and that dialogue. Normally, the process on a reference does take a couple of months. Hopefully, in a couple of months, that should be through."

TRAI Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI reiterates its earlier recommendation on Assignment of Additional Spectrum to Indian Railways for its Safety and Security Applications: DoT, through a reference dated 26.07.2023, informed TRAI that Indian Railways had requested for an additional 5 MHz of paired spectrum in the 700 MHz band to be allocated free of cost to them for enhancing its safety and security systems. Through the said reference dated 26.07.2023, DoT requested TRAI to examine and provide its recommendations on the subject. In this regard, after following a comprehensive consultation with stakeholders, TRAI, on 20.12.2024, sent its recommendations on 'Assignment of Additional Spectrum to Indian Railways for its Safety and Security Applications' to DoT. Subsequently, DoT, through, a back-reference dated 16.06.2025, referred back some of the TRAI's recommendations dated 20-12-2024 and requested TRAI to provide its reconsidered recommendations in respect of such recommendations. TRAI after a careful examination has sent its response date 04-07-2025, to the back- reference to DoT, reiterates its earlier recommendation.

Follow us on:-

If you do not want to receive this mailer, you can unsubscribe here from our mailing list.