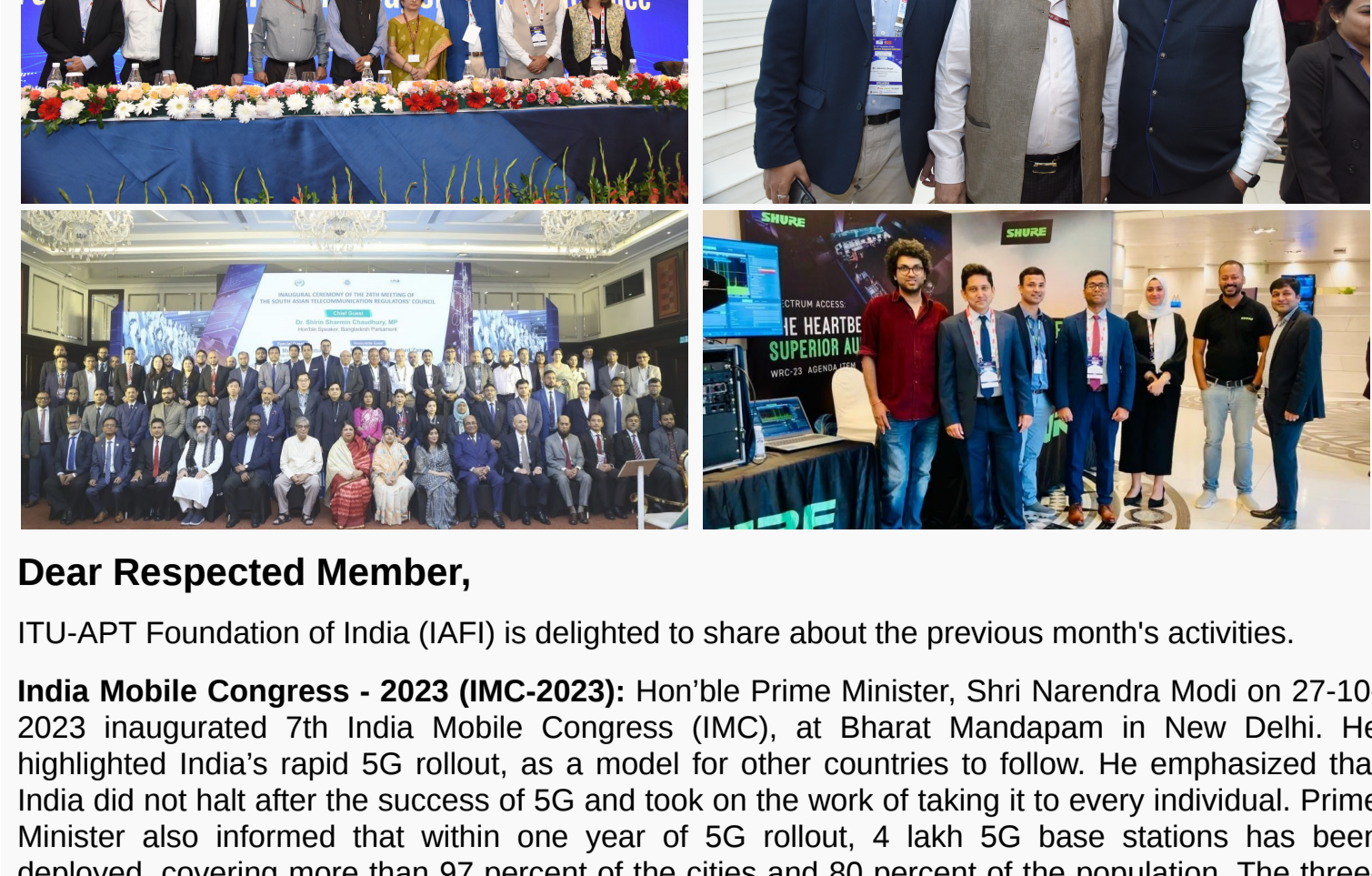


**October Highlights**

**Monthly News Summary**



**Dear Respected Member,**

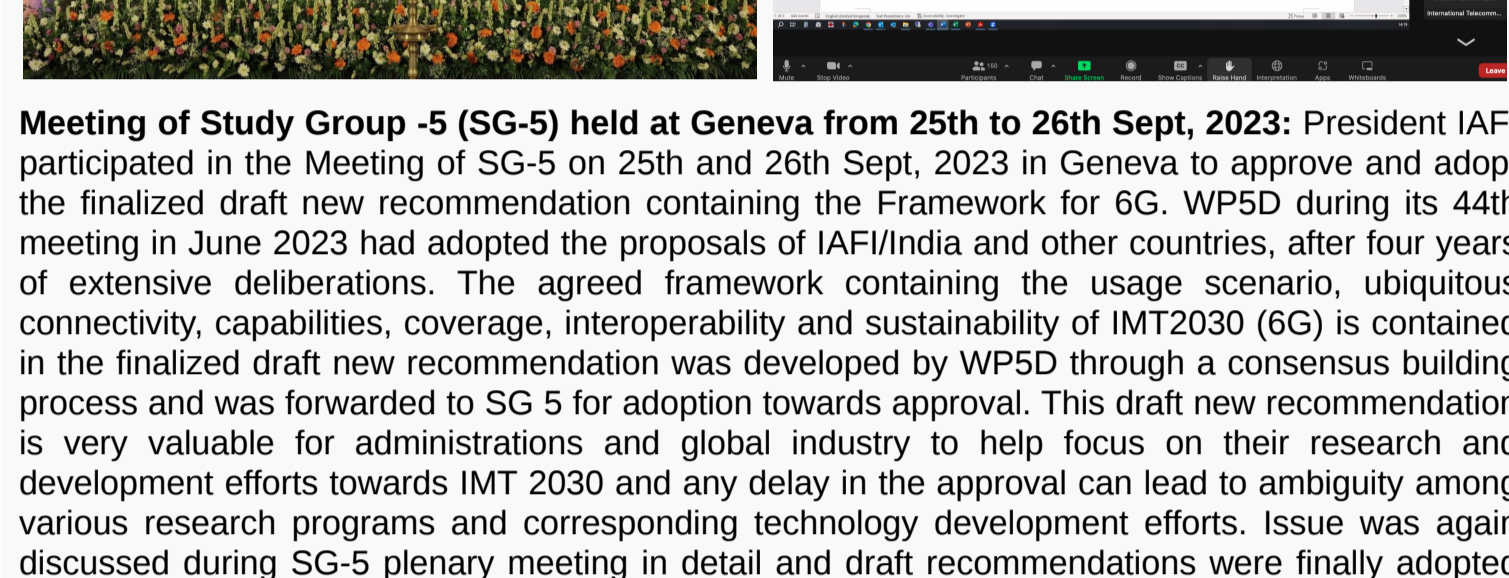
ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is delighted to share about the previous month's activities.

**India Mobile Congress - 2023 (IMC-2023):** Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 27-10-2023 inaugurated 7th India Mobile Congress (IMC), at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. He highlighted India's rapid 5G rollout, as a model for other countries to follow. He emphasized that India did not halt after the success of 5G and took on the work of taking it to every individual. Prime Minister also informed that within one year of 5G rollout, 4 lakh 5G base stations has been deployed, covering more than 97 percent of the cities and 80 percent of the population. The three-day India Mobile Congress - 2023 held from 27-10-2023 to 29-10-2023, showcased the latest digital innovations including 5G, 6G, IoT, AI, broadcasting, satellite, and semiconductor manufacturing, ideas, and use cases across key industries and sectors. It was Asia's largest digital technology forum, where voice, data, and a billion people converged. The event was attended by more than 250 global speakers, 400+ exhibitors, 1000+ media personnel, and 100,000+ visitors including delegates, student and academia, MSMEs, and government representatives. Mr Bharat Bhatia, President and many other members of IAFI attended the inaugural ceremony. The event also featured a comprehensive conference program with keynote addresses and panel discussions from industry leaders and experts. Mr Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI also delivered a presentation on the topic "Need for Evolution of Auction Designs & other Market Mechanisms for Optimal Allocation & Utilization of Spectrum" and also participated in the panel discussions on the subject. His presentation highlighted the need for next spectrum reforms including spectrum swapping policy, lowering of reserve prices for bands below 1 GHz, delicensing of 6GHz and spectrum harmonization. A copy of his presentation can be seen here [Click Here](#)

**3rd India Spectrum Management Conference, ISMC-23:** ITU-APT Foundation of India, along with the University of Chicago, SpectrumX, and IIT Delhi jointly hosted a very successful three-day mega event, the "3rd India Spectrum Management Conference" in New Delhi. It was a joint Indo-US conference, a three-day mega event from 16th to 18th Oct, 2023, on Spectrum & Telecommunications Policy and Technology for Future Wireless Systems. The comprehensive three-day conference delved into the intricacies of spectrum policies, issues, and challenges, charting a path for the future of wireless systems. It featured in-depth sessions on spectrum planning across various frequency bands, encompassing Sub-1 GHz, 1-6 GHz, 6-7 GHz, 7-24 GHz, and bands above 24 GHz, including 45, 71, 8 and 10 were discussed in details. addition, two draft proposals directly received by the NPC, AI 1.2 (6425-7025 MHz) of COAI and AI 1.0 (Frequency bands for IMT) of GSA, were also discussed. However, there was no support for the COAI proposal on 6GHz for IMT and it was agreed to maintain India's opposition to this proposal.

**Meeting of National Preparatory Committee (NPC) for WRC-23:** A meeting of the National Preparatory Committee (NPC) for WRC-23 was held on 19-10-2023 at Spectrum Room, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Wireless Advisor, DoT, to discuss the draft proposal of India, for the upcoming WRC-23. Mr Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI and Mr. Jitendra Singh, Vice President, participated in the meeting. WRC-23 draft proposals AI 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 (Band-A), 1.5, 1.7, 1.8, 1.11 (Issue-C), 1.12, 1.13, 1.15, 1.16, 1.17, 1.9 and 1.0 were discussed in details. addition, two draft proposals directly received by the NPC, AI 1.2 (6425-7025 MHz) of COAI and AI 1.0 (Frequency bands for IMT) of GSA, were also discussed. However, there was no support for the COAI proposal on 6GHz for IMT and it was agreed to maintain India's opposition to this proposal.

**Letter to Secretary, DoT regarding formulation of a new Policy for Spectrum Swapping:** IAFI in a letter to Secretary, DoT requested to formulate a policy allowing TSPs to swap the existing spectrum in one band with another band that they need, while being revenue neutral to revenue positive to the exchequer. Considering spectrum as a scarce natural resource and needs to be utilized efficiently, and to provide the best service to the consumers, IAFI suggested an innovative idea of spectrum swapping, for more efficient spectrum utilization, to increase investment in mobile infrastructure, improving competition, and ultimately better services to the consumers. It is proposed that the DoT should allow swapping of spectrum held by TSPs in one band with spectrum available with the Government in other bands, as it will help service providers to consolidate their spectrum holdings in the bands, where they needed the most, and to free up spectrum in the bands, where not using it efficiently, thereby improving the spectrum efficiency. Entire process will be either revenue neutral or positive to the Government and TSPs has to pay the difference of amount, which can be calculated based on the last auction-determine price or as per the prevailing market rates, if the auction determined price is more than a year old.



**Meeting of Study Group -5 (SG-5) held at Geneva from 25th to 26th Sept, 2023:** President IAFI participated in the Meeting of SG-5 on 25th and 26th Sept, 2023 in Geneva to approve and adopt the finalized draft new recommendation containing the Framework for 6G. WPSD during its 44th meeting in June 2023 had adopted the proposals of IAFI/India and other countries, after four years of extensive deliberations. The agreed framework containing the usage scenario, ubiquitous connectivity, capabilities, coverage, interoperability and sustainability of IMT2030 (6G) is contained in the finalized draft new recommendation was developed by WPSD through a consensus building process and was forwarded to SG-5 for adoption towards approval. This draft new recommendation is very valuable for administrators and global industry to help focus on their research and development efforts towards IMT 2030 and any delay in the approval can lead to ambiguity among various research programs and corresponding technology development efforts. Issue was again discussed during SG-5 plenary meeting in detail and draft recommendations were finally adopted and approved to send the same to upcoming WRC-23, likely to be held from 20th Nov to 15th Dec, 2023 at Dubai. In addition to the above, one more draft new report of IAFI/India regarding IMT-Applications, utilizing IMT-2020 technologies for wide range of industrial and enterprise usage and applications was also discussed in detail and adopted and approved by SG-5 plenary, to send the same to upcoming WRC-23. This was developed by the SWG-Applications chaired by Mr. Bharat Bhatia and the drafting group under the chairmanship of Shri Jitendra Singh, VP, IAFI. Similarly, another draft new report of IAFI/India, viz IMT- Multimedia, regarding the capabilities of the terrestrial component of IMT-2020 technologies for multimedia communications, including real-time multimedia interactive applications was also discussed in detail and adopted and approved by SG-5 plenary, to send the same to upcoming WRC-23.

**First meeting of the Focus Group - Costing Models (FG-CD) for Affordable Data Services:** The first meeting of the FOCUS GROUP (FG) on Costing of Data to study and explore the various costing models for providing affordable data services was held in New Delhi India on 05th to 06th October, 2023. This focus group has been created by the ITU-T SG3 based on an initiative by the IAFI. It may be recalled that IAFI had submitted a contribution number SG-3-C028 in SG-3 of ITU-T meeting, held on 11-11-2022, with a proposal to create a FOCUS GROUP (FG) on Costing of Data to study and explore the various costing models for providing affordable data services. Initially countries from several regions found interest in the proposal and recognized its importance, to study the costing models, as a standardized benchmarking model as currently not available. However, some countries wanted to see the detailed Term of Reference (TOR) of the FG. Therefore, IAFI re-submitted the proposal jointly with Indian Administration, TRAI and TCOE, in the SG-3 meeting (SG-3-C64), held in March, 2023. Meeting agreed to create a new Focus Group on costing model for the affordable data services, under the chairmanship of Shri Shailendra Kumar Mishra of India. The ITU and the TRAI also organized a workshop on "Cost Models for Data Services and International Internet Connectivity", on 4th October 2023 at Lalit Hotel, New Delhi.

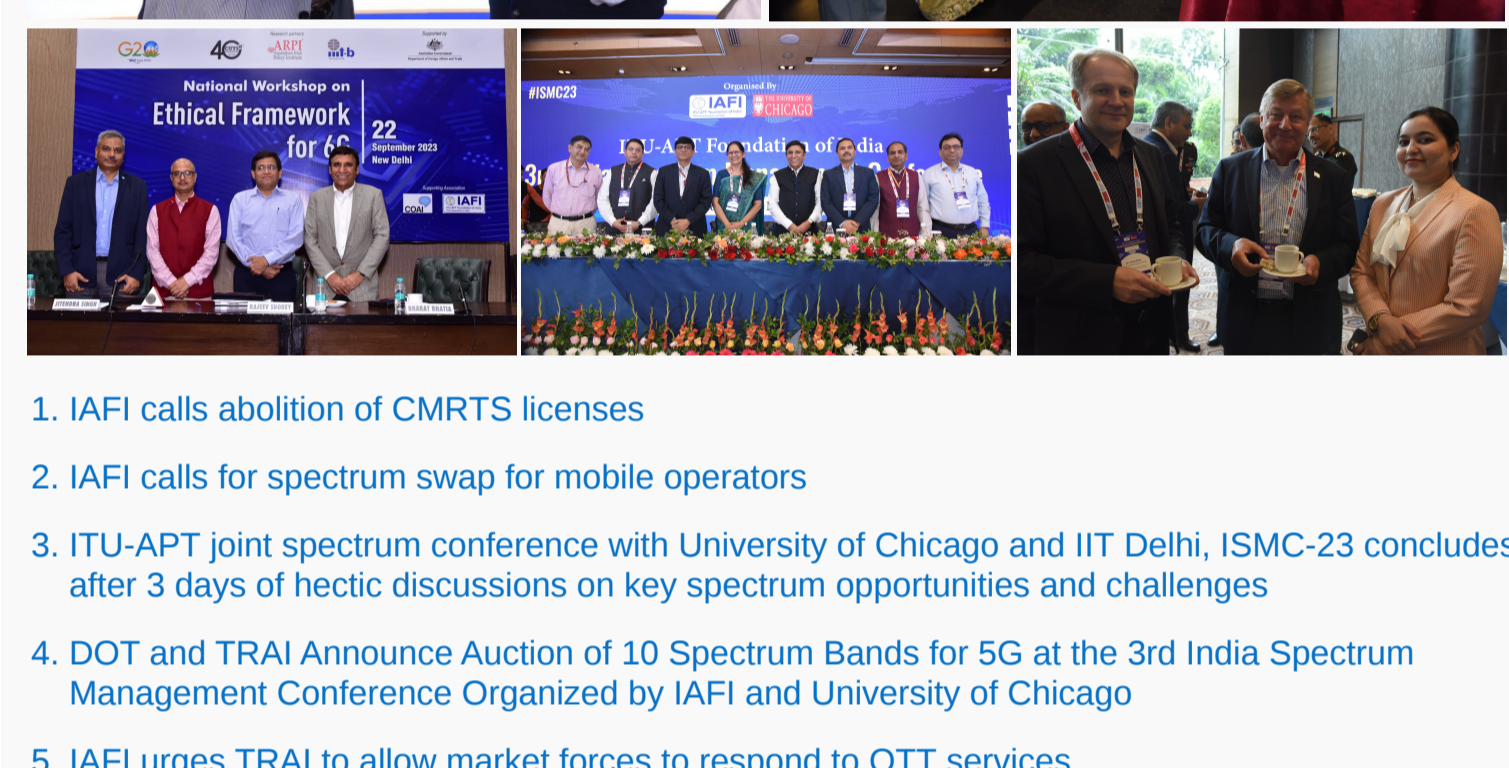
**TRAI Consultation Paper regarding review of PMRTS/CMRTS license:** Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a consultation paper on August 29, 2023, to review the terms and conditions of PMRTS and CMRTS licenses. The last date for submitting comments from stakeholders was September 26, 2023, but was later extended to October 24, 2023 based on IAFI request. Draft comments have been prepared by IAFI and circulated to all the members of IAFI, to solicit their views and suggestions by October 10, 2023.

**Draft comments on three Consultation Papers released by TRAI:** TRAI had invited comments on the following three Consultation Papers, as detailed below.

1. Consultation Paper on Assignment of Spectrum in E&V Bands, and Spectrum for Microwave Access (MVA) & Microwave Backbone (MWB).
2. Consultation Paper on Open and De-licensed use of Unused or Limited Used Spectrum Bands for Demand Generation for Limited Period in Tera-Hertz Range.
3. Consultation Paper on Review of Terms and Conditions of PMRTS and CMRTS Licenses.
4. Draft comments were circulated to all members for comments and it is planned to hold a meeting of stakeholders on 2nd November at the IAFI office to discuss and finalize our draft response to TRAI.

**Media coverage regarding Spectrum Swapping issue raised by IAFI:** ET Telecom reported on a letter written by the President, IAFI to the Secretary, DoT proposing an innovative idea of spectrum swapping. IAFI requested DoT to formulate a policy allowing telecom service providers (TSPs) to swap their existing spectrum in one band with another band that they need, while maintaining or even increasing revenue for the government. Further, swapping can prevent spectrum hoarding by encouraging operators and will allow operators to adapt to changing technology. [Click Here](#)

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



1. IAFI calls abolition of CMRTS licenses
2. IAFI calls for spectrum swap for mobile operators
3. ITU-APT joint spectrum conference with University of Chicago and IIT Delhi, ISMC-23 concludes after 3 days of hectic discussions on key spectrum opportunities and challenges
4. DOT and TRAI Announce Auction of 10 Spectrum Bands for 5G at the 3rd India Spectrum Management Conference Organized by IAFI and University of Chicago
5. IAFI urges TRAI to allow market forces to respond to OTT services
6. IAFI calls for priority to consumers' internet needs in the 6GHz discussions
7. IAFI calls for dedicated spectrum for Industrial 5G networks
8. India at cusp of convergence of landline, wireless services: DoT
9. 6th National Preparatory Workshop for WRC-23
10. IAFI counter comments on the TRAI Consultation for satellite spectrum
11. ITU Approves 6G Vision Framework
12. ITU approves Bharat 6G vision framework

**PAST IAFI EVENT**

Organised By




**ITU-APT Foundation of India**

**3rd India Spectrum Management Conference**


16 - 17 - 18 October 2023

New Delhi

Media Partner COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY



20th Annual General Meeting  
ITU-APT Foundation of India

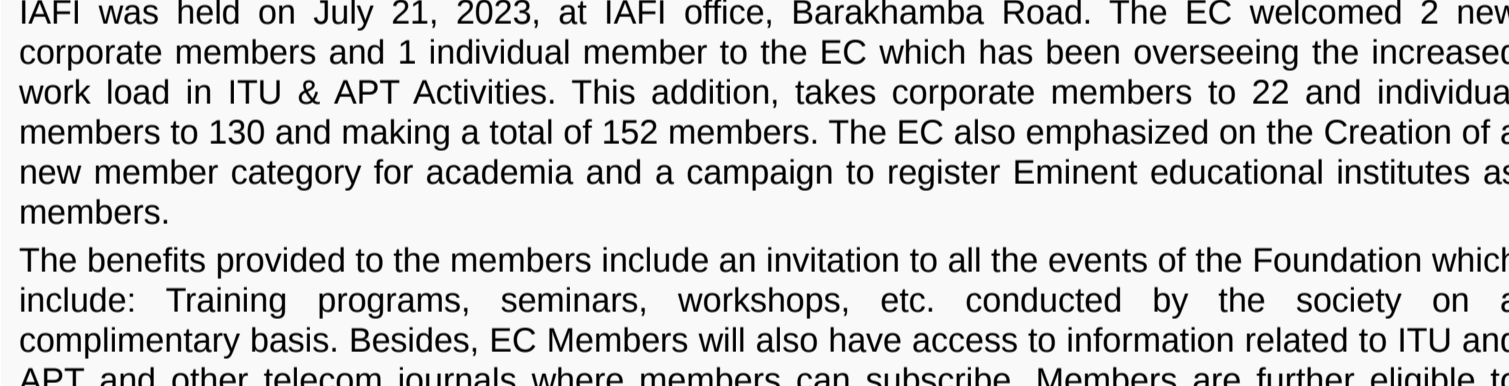


Round Table Discussion  
Methodology for the Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services

**Links to our Activities & Programmes**

- 1) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Suggestions for formulation of a new Policy for Spectrum Swapping
- 2) Letter to Minister of External Affairs on Delicensing of 6GHz band
- 3) Letter to Secretary DoT on Important issues awaiting solution in the telecom sector
- 4) Letter to DDG TEC for Nomination to join the member of TSAC
- 5) Letter to MOC on Policy for 5G Network for Industries
- 6) TRAI Consultation on REVIEW OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PMRTS AND CMRTS LICENSES
- 7) Comments on TRAI Consultation paper on OTT communication services and selective banning of OTT Services
- 8) Letter to MOS on 6G standardisation Roadmap
- 9) Letter to MOC on the License exempt use of 6GHz

**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 Indian Telecom sector. The 17th Executive Council meeting (EC) of IAFI was held on July 21, 2023, at IAFI office, Barakhamba Road. The EC welcomed 2 new corporate members and 1 individual member to the EC which has been overseeing the increased work load in ITU & APT Activities. This addition, takes corporate members to 22 and individual members to 130 and making a total of 152 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. [Membership details](#)

**ITU-APT CORPORATE MEMBERS**



**Activities in our focus areas during October 2023**



Meeting of the National Working Group 3 (NWG3) for ITU-T Study Group 3 (SG3): A meeting of the National Working Group 3 (NWG3) was held on 18-10-2023 at Board Room, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Sh. Manish Sinha, Member (Finance), DCC, DoT, to discuss the various issues likely to come up in the SG-3 meeting, going to be held in November 2023, at Geneva. Brief of activities of the newly constituted Focus Group, FG-CD under SG-3 was also discussed. During the discussion, Member (Finance) expressed keen interest on the scope of work of the FG-CD and possible contributions in future meetings by India. It was explained in the meeting that basic proposal to create a dedicated Focus Group to study Costing Models for Affordable Data Services, was submitted by the IAFI in the SG-3 plenary in Nov, 2022 and after a long discussion, proposal was approved and adopted. Finally, Focus Group was created in March, 2023 and its first meeting was held in Oct, 2023. Member (F) desired that more and more contributions should be submitted by India in future meetings.



The 24th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-24): IAFI virtually attended the 24th annual meeting of the South Asian telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-24), organized by the APT in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 03 rd to 05 th October, 2023, to discuss the agenda of the annual meeting and ICT that are common for the regulators of SATRC Members. The meeting discussed the key policy and regulatory issues of the regulators of SATRC (BTRC). The meeting hosted by the Bangladesh telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). The meeting discussed the key policy and regulatory issues of the SATRC members and approved the outcomes of SATRC Action Plan Phase VIII and adopted SATRC Action Plan Phase IX: India's telecom success story specially the Digital Revolution and speediest 5G launch was discussed, as Indian telecom operators have surpassed the three-year 5G network rollout target given to them within six months and acquired 100 million customers in less than a year, the second largest 5G subscribers in the world after China.

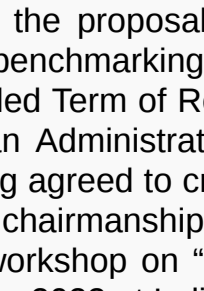


सत्यमेव जयते  
**Department of Telecommunications**  
 Ministry of Communications  
 Government of India

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**Follow us on:-**


ITU-APT Foundation Of India 504, Fifth Floor World Trade Center (Behind Lalit Hotel) Barakhamba Road  
 New Delhi- 110001, India.  
 Contact No.: +91-11-45005163, 7017210403, 9999797700  
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