

Quarterly Newsletter

Quarter Highlights (October to December 2024)

Dear Respected Member,

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



4th India Spectrum Management Conference 2024 (ISMC-24): This quarter saw the muchawaited flagship event ISMC-24, held on November 7–8 at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi, bringing together over 200 participants, including 16 international experts and 45 Indian leaders from telecom, government, and industry. The conference featured eight key sessions covering WRC-27 preparations, 4G/5G/6G roadmaps, spectrum auctions, satellite services, and broadcasting needs. High-level speakers included ITU's Mario Maniewicz, TRAI Chairman Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, and senior officials from DoT and industry leaders like Ericsson, Qualcomm, and GSMA. The sessions fostered critical discussions on policies, pricing, and future technology trends, positioning India at the forefront of global spectrum management strategies.

Focus Group on Costing Models for Affordable Data Services (FG-CD): At the virtual meeting on November 26, IAFI presented two significant contributions. The first highlighted the role of IPv6 in optimizing networks and reducing data costs, citing India's 83% IPv6 adoption as a global success story. The second contribution addressed challenges in providing affordable data in complex markets, proposing a simplified yes/no questionnaire to streamline responses for analysis. Both contributions were accepted for further study and will be circulated among ITU member countries for feedback.

IAFI Letter to PMO on Lower 6 GHz Band: IAFI urged the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to delicense the lower 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) for Wi-Fi 6E, estimating a \$2.9 billion boost to India's economy through innovation, local manufacturing, and exports. A study by Prof. Raul Katz emphasized the economic potential of this band, aligning India with global trends where many countries have already opened it for unlicensed use. IAFI argued that Wi-Fi 6E would improve speeds, reduce latency, and foster digital inclusion, addressing connectivity challenges and advancing India's technology leadership.

IAFI Radio Group Meeting: On November 27, IAFI's Radio Group met in a hybrid format to finalize contributions for the ITU-R Working Party 5D (WP-5D) meeting scheduled for February 2025. The group discussed 18 potential issues, eventually selecting 12 key topics for submission. Shri Bharat Bhatia, IAFI President, chaired the session, emphasizing timely inputs to shape global standards in IMT (5G/6G) and terrestrial spectrum usage.

Fourth Meeting of WG-3 of NFAP 2022: The NFAP-2022 Review/Revision Committee's fourth meeting, chaired by Shri M.K. Pattanaik, reviewed frequency bands for ESIM (Earth Stations in Motion) services, including the 14-14.5 GHz and 28.5-30 GHz ranges. IAFI also proposed delicensing the upper 6 GHz band (6425-7025 MHz) for Wi-Fi usage, aligning with 90 other countries. The meeting further discussed international footnotes and the need for a new ad hoc group to review additional parts of NFAP.

Third Meeting of WG-2 of NFAP 2022: Chaired by Shri N.K. Bhola, this meeting focused on IMT frequency bands and contributions related to CV2X/ITS services in the 5 GHz range. IAFI recommended simplifying India Footnote IND-16 and presented updates on multiple proposals to support emerging wireless technologies and smart infrastructure.

IAFI Comments to TRAI on Telecommunications Act 2023: In response to TRAI's consultation paper, IAFI advocated for progressive reforms, including private 5G networks, streamlined regulations, and equitable spectrum access to boost innovation. IAFI emphasized aligning policies with global best practices, highlighting the need for robust telecom infrastructure to unlock India's digital potential. A press release reiterated IAFI's commitment to promoting industry-friendly policies.

4th Meeting of WG-1 of NFAP 2022: IAFI submitted three proposals for frequencies up to 1 GHz: IMT identification (612-960 MHz and others), NB-IoT use (918-922 MHz), and PMSE (174-230 MHz, 470-698 MHz). The contributions were discussed extensively alongside other proposals during this virtual session chaired by Shri Viresh Goel.

IAFI Radio Group on SG-5/WP-5D: During this hybrid meeting, IAFI finalized contributions for ITU-R Study Group 5 and WP-5D, emphasizing the effectiveness of current terms of reference for SG-5 working parties. IAFI proposed minor updates to better reflect ongoing activities, reinforcing India's role in shaping global IMT standards.



SATRC-25 Meeting: Held in New Delhi from November 11–13, SATRC-25 focused on accelerating regional telecom and ICT development. Shri Bharat Bhatia, IAFI President, highlighted the economic impact of allocating the full 6 GHz spectrum for Wi-Fi, estimating a \$4.03 trillion boost to India's economy by 2034. His address emphasized harmonized spectrum policies and robust digital connectivity to promote growth and inclusiveness across South Asia.

3rd Meeting of SG-1 of ITU-D: IAFI presented a contribution during sessions on broadband deployment strategies and connectivity for rural and remote areas in developing countries. The meetings, held in Geneva from November 4–8, emphasized policies to enable meaningful connectivity for underserved populations.

BSNL Launches Satellite-to-Device Service: BSNL, in partnership with Viasat, launched India's first satellite-to-device service to provide connectivity in remote areas. Demonstrated at the India Mobile Congress, the service uses Viasat's L-band satellites for direct communication with consumer devices like smartphones, bridging the digital divide and enabling emergency communication.

5G FWA Subscriber Growth: India's 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) market is expected to reach 5 million subscribers in 2024 and double to 10 million in 2025, per Counterpoint Research. FWA's ability to complement slow fiber rollout makes it a critical solution for bridging broadband gaps in underserved regions. Reliance Jio is likely to lead this growth.

Indian Space Conclave 2024: ISRO announced plans to launch its first space station module by 2028 and achieve full operational capacity by 2035. The conclave also discussed missions to the Moon, Venus, and Mars, focusing on advancing India's space capabilities through innovation, commercialization, and global partnerships.

TRAI Open House Discussion: The discussion centered on spectrum allocation for satellite-based services. While telecom providers favored auction-based processes, satellite players advocated for administrative assignments with AGR-based payments. The contrasting views underscored challenges in balancing industry growth with regulatory fairness.

Inauguration of WTSA-24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated WTSA-24 on October 15, alongside the India Mobile Congress (IMC). With over 3,300 delegates from 160 countries, WTSA-24 marked a milestone for India as the first Asia-Pacific host. Discussions focused on 6G, satellite communications, AI, and cybersecurity. PM Modi emphasized India's leadership in digital adoption, citing 1.2 billion mobile users and affordable internet data rates. He urged global collaboration to address cybersecurity challenges and highlighted India's remarkable progress in mobile manufacturing and digital transformation.

Inauguration of IMC-2024: Held alongside WTSA-24, IMC-2024 brought together global leaders and innovators in telecommunications. Reliance Jio's Akash Ambani lauded India's digital revolution, while Sunil Bharti Mittal emphasized India's 4G-driven growth and upcoming 5G leadership. Discussions included bridging rural connectivity gaps through LEO networks and enhancing local telecom manufacturing via PLI schemes. ITU Secretary General Doreen Bogdan-Martin praised India's UPI success and its role in global digital innovation.

Network of Women (NoW4WTSA24): On October 17, the NoW event highlighted women's growing role in telecommunications and standardization. It promoted gender inclusivity by encouraging female leadership, nominating women for ITU-T roles, and achieving a 35% female representation at WTSA-24. Inspiring talks, networking opportunities, and recognition ceremonies

celebrated exceptional contributions, advancing gender equity in the ICT sector. **IAFI Honoured WTSA-24 Delegations:** IAFI hosted a dinner reception on October 18 at Hotel Le Méridien for WTSA-24 delegations, including telecom ministers, ITU officials, and industry leaders.

The event fostered goodwill and informal discussions, enhancing global cooperation during WTSA-



International Conference of Telecom Regulators: Organized by TRAI on October 16 during WTSA-24, the conference focused on emerging regulatory trends, including non-terrestrial networks and OTT communication services. IAFI President Shri Bharat Bhatia moderated discussions on satellite communication policies, with participation from global leaders like SpaceX, GSMA, and Amazon.

NTIPRIT Workshop on 5G Use-Case Labs: Held on October 16 at IMC-24, NTIPRIT's workshop focused on fostering academic-industry collaboration. Shri Bharat Bhatia highlighted India's role in 6G innovation and its participation in global standardization efforts, contributing to discussions on future telecom opportunities.

IAFI Presents Resolutions at WTSA-24: IAFI President Shri Bharat Bhatia presented several key resolutions: Resolution 20 on international telecom resource management was approved after deliberation.

Resolution 47 proposed the suppression of ccTLD governance, noting it had achieved its purpose. Resolution 88 addressed international mobile roaming, finalized through collaboration with the African Telecommunication Union.

Innovation Xchange at WTSA-24 A global hybrid event promoting 5G/6G, AI, IoT, secured networks, and quantum communications. Participants from IITs, the USA, Japan, and the EU shared innovations, fostering international collaboration and product development.

Digital Wave Stage at WTSA-24: The Digital Wave Stage featured global ICT discussions, with IAFI General Manager Ms. Aarush Qureshi highlighting IAFI's extensive contributions to ITU's spectrum management and the advancement of telecom cooperation.

Fifth Global Standards Symposium (GSS-24): Held on October 14, GSS-24 emphasized emerging technologies and international standards. Chaired by C-DOT CEO Dr. Rajkumar Upadhyay, the symposium set the stage for WTSA-24, focusing on innovation, AI, and next-gen networks.

Meeting of WP-4A of ITU-R: IAFI presented contributions on unauthorized operations of Non-GSO Earth Stations, gaining broad support. The session, held on October 21–31, aimed to refine regulatory measures for efficient satellite spectrum usage.

WTSA-24 Closing Ceremony: Concluding on October 24, WTSA-24 saw record participation of 3,700 delegates and 26% female representation. India's significant contributions to global telecom policies were widely praised, with leaders highlighting the nation's role in advancing the digital revolution.

Submission of Comments to TRAI on Satellite Services: IAFI submitted its response to TRAI's consultation paper on spectrum for satellite-based services. IAFI underscored the importance of balanced policies to ensure growth and innovation in satellite communications.

Joint Session of WP-5D and WP-4C: ITU-R convened a joint session on Agenda Item 1.13 to address spectrum requirements for mobile-satellite services supporting direct connectivity with IMT networks. Timelines for further studies were finalized for completion by October 2026.

47th WP-5D ITU-R Meeting: Held from October 3–11 in Geneva, the meeting saw 170 contributions, including four from IAFI. Discussions focused on IMT-2030 advancements, RIT/SRIT evaluations, and emission characteristics for IMT-2020 base stations and devices.

SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends: Hosted in Tehran, the SATRC workshop emphasized digital transformation trends. Shri Bharat Bhatia presented insights on 5G deployment progress and future technologies, highlighting regional cooperation to foster innovation.

DSA 2024 Global Summit (Sept 23–25): The Dynamic Spectrum Alliance (DSA) Global Summit, held in Geneva, Switzerland, brought together policymakers, regulators, and industry experts to discuss spectrum sharing and next-generation connectivity. Co-located with Wi-Fi World Congress Europe 2024, the summit celebrated Wi-Fi's 25th anniversary, marking its transformative impact since 1999. Key discussions revolved around the 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi, innovations for IoT, enterprise connectivity, and the future role of dynamic spectrum access. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of IAFI, addressed the growing demands driven by Al adoption and the path towards 6G services, sharing the panel with global leaders like Masanori Kondo (APT) and Chris Woolford (Ofcom). The event underscored the importance of collaborative policies to unlock spectrum's full potential for economic growth.



TRAI Consultation Paper on UCC: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) published a consultation paper seeking comments on revising the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations (TCCCPR-2018). The regulations aim to tackle unwanted commercial communications (UCC), spam calls, and SMS issues affecting consumers. IAFI drafted its detailed comments on the paper and circulated them among its members for review. The deadline for submission, initially September 25, was extended to October 9, 2024, to allow for broader stakeholder feedback. IAFI's contributions emphasized improving the UCC framework to address current gaps and challenges in scam communications.

Informal Group on Lower 6 GHz: An informal virtual meeting, chaired by Shri Bharat Bhatia on September 25, focused on drafting comments for the NWG-3 meeting scheduled on September 27 at WPC/DoT. Discussions centered on the Lower 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) and its critical role in enabling Wi-Fi 6E and emerging technologies. IAFI members reviewed the draft submissions and unanimously agreed on the key recommendations. The comments aimed to highlight the economic and technological benefits of delicensing the band, aligning India with global trends and promoting digital inclusion through affordable, high-speed connectivity.

2nd Broadband India Summit 2024: The 2nd Broadband India Summit, held on September 27 in New Delhi, addressed India's digital connectivity challenges, particularly in rural and underserved regions. Organized by Bharat Exhibitions with support from Broadband India Forum (BIF), the summit explored solutions like 5G Intelligent Villages, fiber optic infrastructure, and satellite connectivity. Discussions also focused on business models for Fiber ISPs and public-private collaboration to expand digital governance. Shri Bharat Bhatia participated in a panel discussion on FTTH vs. AirFiber (5G) for residential broadband and strategies to bridge the digital divide. The event highlighted how affordable, high-speed broadband can drive economic growth and empower communities.

Workshop on Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces (RIS): On September 17, a joint workshop by WWRF, TSDSI, and IAFI delved into the potential of Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces (RIS) to transform wireless communications. RIS, a key technology for 6G and IMT-2030, enables dynamic control of radio signals, enhancing coverage, capacity, and energy efficiency. Shri Bharat Bhatia emphasized its transformative role in overcoming coverage challenges and supporting advanced systems like massive MIMO. Guest speakers, including Prof. Angeliki Alexiou and Prof. Arzad Alam, highlighted how RIS can enable smart environments, improve spectral efficiency, and pave the way for intelligent communication networks.

IAFI Radio Group Meeting (Sept 18): The IAFI Radio Group convened on September 18 to review documents for submission to the ITU-R WP-5D and WP-4C meetings. Four critical contributions were approved, focusing on advancements in IMT-2030 technologies, air-to-ground communications, and regulatory measures for managing non-GSO satellite operations. Discussions also included updates to the ITU-R M.2527-0 report for terrestrial IMT applications. Shri Bharat Bhatia emphasized the importance of timely submissions to influence global standards. The approved documents were sent to ITU for further deliberation, showcasing India's proactive role in shaping the global telecom agenda.

7th National Working Party 4C Meeting (Sept 20): The National Working Party 4C (NWP-4C) meeting, held on September 20, focused on Agenda Item 1.13 of WRC-27, addressing MSS and IMT user equipment connectivity. IAFI was the sole contributor, submitting a proposal to extend MSS capabilities to complement terrestrial IMT coverage in rural and remote areas. The study underscored the growing demand for ubiquitous connectivity where deploying 4G/5G networks is economically unviable. The document received detailed stakeholder feedback, leading to refinements for final submission. The NWP chair assured a clean version would be shared, strengthening India's contributions to WRC-27 preparations.

33rd APT Wireless Group (AWG-33) : The 33rd AWG meeting, held in Bangkok from September 9–13, brought together over 100 contributions from Asia-Pacific countries. IAFI actively participated, presenting four key documents on: Cooperative vehicle-infrastructure systems 6 GHz Wi-Fi implementation and regulatory

development Terahertz (THz) systems for frequencies above 450 GHz Deployment solutions for IMT-2020/5G use cases. The meeting approved 20 output documents, including a new APT report on 6 GHz Wi-Fi, marking a significant achievement in regional collaboration and spectrum policy advancements.

IAFI Radio Group Virtual Meeting: On September 11, the IAFI Radio Group met virtually to finalize contributions for the WP-5D and WP-4C meetings. Key topics discussed included the evaluation of IMT-2030 technologies and regulatory measures for non-GSO satellite earth stations. While agreement was reached on WP-5D submissions, discussions on WP-4C proposals remained inconclusive. The group committed to reviewing further revisions for IMT-2030 advancements, ensuring India's active participation in shaping global telecom standards.

Working Group-2 (WG-2) of NFAP Meeting: The WPC wing of DoT convened a meeting on September 11 to review the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) and its footnotes. The discussions aimed to align India's spectrum management policies with evolving technological needs, such as 5G, satellite, and IoT networks. Shri Bharat Bhatia and IAFI members participated virtually, contributing recommendations for improving frequency allocations. The meeting highlighted India's proactive efforts to optimize spectrum resources for emerging wireless technologies.

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



- IAFI in the comprehensive comment on TRAI Consultation Paper concerning terms and conditions of network authorization under new Telecom Act, 2023, highlighted critical reforms to ensure robust telecom infrastructure, equitable spectrum access and innovation friendly regulatory environment Read More
- ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) hosted 4 th India Spectrum Management Conference 2024 (ISMC- 24) on 7-8 November, 2024 at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi. Important pivotal issues like WRC-27 Agenda Items, Spectrum Roadmap for 4G/5G IMT technologies, 6 GHz spectrum issues, Direct broadcast to Mobile, GSO/NGSO issues and Read More
- 3. During the 4th ISMC-24 organized by the IAFI, Prof Raul Kartz, President Telecom Advisor services, LLP, USA and Prof University of San Andres, Argentina explained the economic value of lower 6 GHz Wi-Fi spectrum, 5925-6425 MHz as Read More
- ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) organized 4th India Spectrum Management Conference 2024 (ISMC-24) was held from 7-8 Nov, 2024 at Hotel Le Meridian, New Delhi. Event served as the prominent forum for in-depth analysis of key issues related to Read More
- 5. ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) in response to a TRAI Consultation Paper submitted comprehensive response regarding the ongoing consultation paper on Telecom Commercial Communication. IAFI emphasized the need to expand the framework' scope to prevent SCAM Communication Read More
- 6. In response to TRAI Consultation Paper on service authorization granted under new Telecom Act, 2023, IAFI vehemently opposes the proposed amalgamation of the GMPCS and VSAT authorization and said that these two authorization should remain separate as Read More
- 7. IAFI calls for Delicensing of Captive 5G networks under Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. Read More
- 8. Bharat Bhatia, president ITU APT Foundation of India has been elected to chair the global group in ITU that will decide the 6G standards. Read More
- Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a press release applauded TRAI for releasing a consultation paper on spectrum auction, in millimeter bands 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40 GHz, and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands, seeking comments from the stakeholders, for future 5G deployment and ensuring reliable and widespread 5G coverage in sectors like healthcare, robotics, and Industry 4.0. Read More
- 10. A new Task Force dedicated to address the challenges and opportunities in developing and standardizing 6G technology, to focus on enhancing India's participation in the ITU IMT-2030 framework. IAFI welcomes participation from industry, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations on ubiquitous and affordable connectivity, support development of telecom and semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, thus India taking lead in 6G Technology ecosystem and services. Read More
- 11. IAFI urges Department of Telecom for urgently delicensing the frequency band 5925-6425 MHz for the use of Wi-Fi to support India's local manufacturing innovation and export make in India products. Considering the importance of the Wi-Fi in 6 GHz band, many major economies like USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Singapore, UAE etc, have already delicensed Wi-Fi 6e (5925-6425 MHz). Read More
- 12. During the "National Workshop on Learnings from WRC-23 and the way forward, planning for WRC-27 and forthcoming ITU and APT meetings", organized by IAFI at Hotel Hyatt Centric, MG Road, Bangalore, Chief Guest, the Member (Technology) announced that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will soon initiate studies on the Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS). The studies will also address potential 5G coexistence issues with Aircraft Radio Altimeters. Read More
- 13. DoT to resolve 5G coexistence with radio altimeters, start studies on CBRS: Official Read More
- 14. IAFI has urged the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to expedite the assignment of satellite spectrum without any further delay. This is to prevent potential service launch delays for VSAT and other satellite operators operating under a unified license. IAFI emphasizes that such assignments should be processed promptly under existing guidelines, without waiting for the issuance of rules under the telecom act. Read More
- 15. In the 45th meeting of WP5D of the ITU-R in Geneva (January 31 to February 7, 2024), a proposal by IAFI was approved to create a global report on mobile technologies for financial inclusion. The report will include insights from India's experience with UPI payments. IAFI emphasized UPI's robust security, reliability, and speed, underscoring its crucial role in promoting financial inclusion and driving economic growth. Read More

Links to our Activities & Programmes

1) Letter to Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Shri P K Mishra for PMO Support needed for Innovation and Local Manufacturing
2) 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.
3) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways Request for Industry consultation on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023
4) Letter to Secretary, Ministry of Power Request for Implementing Green Open Access Rules for the Telecom Sector in States/UTs
5) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of MTCTE
6) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Devices under MTCTE
7) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
8) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for Urgent Intervention in Equipment Theft Cases
9) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways, Government of India Urgent need for WRC-23 follow up actions on 6GHz Band-Delicensing of 5925-6425 MHz is key to support innovation and make in India
10) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Rationalization of Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) pertaining to Satellite Communications
11) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
12) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Suggestions for formulation of a new Policy for Spectrum Swapping

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



Activities in our focus areas during August 2024



When urban planners design a city of the future, they make assumptions about how future citizens will behave. Those assumptions tend to reflect available data, as well as the ideas, perceptions and biases of the planning team.

"We're using digital twins to understand behaviour patterns for predictive analysis in smart cities," explains Pico Velasquez, founder and CEO of VIIRA, a design-technology company focused on the built environment. But without broad and accurate data, the best-intentioned urban plans may still overlook parts of the population, such as women and minorities. In effect, women can find themselves sidelined in decisions about future buildings, public transport, and other city infrastructure if artificial intelligence (AI) models favour typical male preferences or overlook female needs.



APT- IAFI circulated the meeting invitation to members to register and attend the 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-2), scheduled to be held from 10 to 11 December 2024, Virtual/Online Meeting.



Department of Telecommunications Ministry of Communications Government of India

Reliance Jio chairman, Akash Ambani; managing director, Pankaj Pawar; vice chairman of Bharti Enterprises, Rajan Mittal; and Vodafone Idea MD Akshaya Moondra, among others met up with Jyotiraditya Scindia. Union Minister of Communications in the Capital. **Discussion points included:**

Telcos to get a fair share in the revenues from large OTT platforms;

Telcos need for a level-playing field for satellite comm services;

Telecom industry highlighted issues under the GST regime. One of the most pressing issues is the non-availability of input tax credit (ITC) on the procurement of petroleum products, which has created a cascading effect. Under GST, telecom operators are unable to offset the Central Excise and VAT paid on the procurement of petroleum products, leading to increased operational costs and reduced competitiveness in the global market. Another critical challenge stems from restrictions on claiming ITC for goods and services used in the construction of telecommunication towers. This restriction has imposed a substantial financial burden on industry players, hindering infrastructure expansion and modernisation efforts, which are crucial for meeting growing consumer demands. Inconsistencies between telecom regulations prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and GST provisions have exacerbated compliance complexities.



The number of registered complaints against unregistered senders have reduced to 1.51 lakh in October compared to 1.89 lakh in August. TRAI data reveals. This makes a reduction of 20 percent from August. In September, 1.63 lakh registered complaints against unregistered senders were recorded. TRAI issued directions on August 13, 2024, mandating that any entity found to be making promotional voice calls in violation of regulations would face strict consequences. This includes disconnection of all telecom resources, blacklisting for up to two years, and a ban on new resource allocation during the blacklisting period. Consequent to this direction, access providers have taken widespread actions which led to a significant reduction in the complaints registered against the spam calls.

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