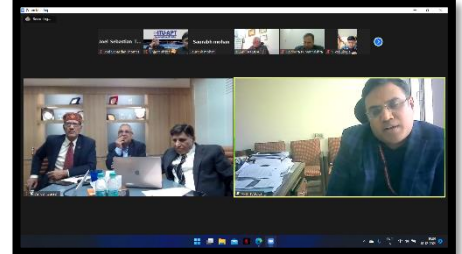


THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

Highlights of the week:

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) hosted a webinar on operationalisation of Telecom reforms on 16th of December. This event engrossed on the gathering for inputs towards operationalization of telecom reforms and how to move forward with the same. The meeting began with an opening note by Mr. Satya N Gupta (Secretary General, IAFI) followed by presentations and key note address by: - Mr. Amit Katoch DDG (LPF), Prof. V Sridhar, Mr. Parag Kar & Mr.P.K. Sinha.



World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF-21) Sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum took place from 16th -18th December, the event was spread across diverse sectors ranging from health and education to employment, environment, transportation, agriculture, nutrition, disability, youth empowerment, social inclusion, gender equality and poverty reduction.

Mr Bharat B Bhatia presented a statement at the opening plenary along with various administrations and other major ITU members. Shri K Rajaraman also presented t a statement from Indian administration

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has been drafting appropriate responses to the Consultation Paper by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), these papers have been circulated among the members of IAFI for comments internally, the core team is working on the same to give it a final shape. The list for the same has been provided in a tabular format. These dates are subject to change.



Consultation Papers	Comments Date	Counter Comments Date
Licensing Framework for Establishing Satellite Earth Station Gateway	20th December 2021	3rd January 2021
Auction of Spectrum in frequency bands identified for IMT/5G	28th December	11th Jan 2022
Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector	5th January 2022	19th January 2022

Forthcoming ITU and APT Meetings

Name of the Meeting	Dates
IRM- Fourth Interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20	5 th – 6 th January 2022
World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTS-20)	1st - 9 th March 2022
The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-21 (APT WTDC21-4)	24th January – 28th January 2022

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

Telecom Stories:

The government should reconsider the entire tax structure on the telecom industry as India has the highest levies and taxes in India. The license fees need to be reduced as well and the overall GST rate structure also needs consideration. The recent steps by the government have eased the liquidity situation but still few issues remain. “We have to look at the spectrum pricing in a very holistic manner, the initial price for the spectrum auction has been drastically cut down it will be very difficult and challenging to have a 5G rollout with such price of spectrum.” Mr Bharat B Bhatia added.



Mr. Tilak Raj Dua, Chairman IAFI participated in the IMC 2021 organised by COAI and DOT. He spoke on the Ease of Doing Business - Cultivating an Environment to Stimulate Investments and growth, he believed in the systematic growth that has taken place over the years in this telecom industry on ease of doing business. “There is a need for legal enforcement in guidelines regarding the need of doing business” he added.



Union minister for electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav explains how the government will not only facilitate infrastructure support, but also fast-track clearances and that approvals for some big-ticket investments could come as early as in the next 4-6 months. Calling semiconductors, the missing piece in India’s electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman has gained popularity for speedy approvals for granting community roll out permissions throughout the nation, and requested secretaries from states to facilitate the expeditious disposal of functions. Rajaram directed all of the DoT areas models conduct month-month conferences with services suppliers to overview the software approval course of pendency and in addition pursue with the state and municipal authorities.

