ITU-APT
Foundation of India
ITU's Association of India

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

Highlights of the week:

The 2nd APT Preparatory meeting for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (APT-PP- 22-2) was organised by APT as a virtual meeting from Tuesday to Thursday this week. The aim of this meeting is to prepare for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences which will be held in Romania Bucharest in October this year. The meeting coordinated issues of regional interest and prepared coordinated regional contributions to the Conference. Mr Bharat B Bhatia participated in the meeting as an IAFI rep.

IAFI Preparatory meetings to develop possible contributions for the forthcoming 29th Meeting of AWG (AWG-29), continued this week, this week the Radio group meeting on Wednesday, reviewed a list of working documents and the revised structure of the AWG and decided on which contributions should be developed. Last date for contribution submission to APT is 14th March, 2022
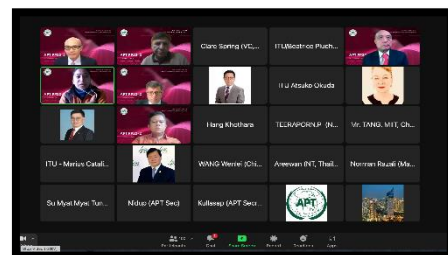
ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has been drafting appropriate responses to various TRAI consultation papers. Draft on recent consultation paper on networking and telecom equipment manufacturing in India has been circulated among the members of IAFI for comments and the core team is working on the same to give it a final shape. The list of current open consultations is given below:

TRAI consultation Papers under process:

Consultation Papers	Comments Date	Counter Comments Date	IAFI Preparatory Meetings
Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector	9th February 2022	23rd February 2022	22nd February 2022
Networking and Telecom, Equipment manufacturing in India	3rd March 2022	11th March 2022	-

Forthcoming ITU and APT Meetings (Jan-Mar 2022)

Meeting Groups	Meeting Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI Preparatory Meetings
ITU-R: RAG	24th Feb 2022	17th Feb 2022	-
ITU-D: IAGDI-CRO	24th Feb 2022	17th Feb 2022	-
APT: PP-22	15th-17th Feb 2022	8th Feb 2022	-
ITU-T: WTSA-20	1st-9th Mar 2022	22nd Feb 2022	
APT: AWG 29	21st-29th Mar 2022	14th Mar 2022	23rd Feb 2022

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Telecom Stories:

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is expected to come out with a draft policy by March end to accelerate clearances for radio frequency allocations for small cells, we have set up a committee to review the SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Radio Frequency Allocations)-related clearances that are required for small cells. DoT, would circulate the proposed framework to all states and Centre-ruled territories for adherence to facilitating 5G specific infrastructure in the country.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has reached out to the state-run Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) to develop an analytics-based system to monitor polling booths for any suspicious activity, and analyse behaviour and conduct of voters. The move has come on the backdrop of an autonomous body receiving multiple complaints pertaining to electoral mismanagement and booth capturing, this process is done through implementing some of the critical programs such as Network of Spectrum (NFS) and CCTV deployment deals.

Electronics and Junior IT Minister, Rajiv Chandrashekar that technology has changed significantly and the advent of social media has created challenges, promoting the government to call for a new law. While government often face challenges but has focused and promised that the speed of the start-up ecosystem is not even blunted by even 1 percent if the system of governance indicates high levels of compliance costs.

India may draft a completely new privacy bill, by putting aside the current version of the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019 that has been in the making for nearly five years and does not comprehensively address the requirements of the country's changing technology landscape. The proposed regulation has attracted sustained criticism from several stakeholders, both local and global, due to provisions such as inclusion of non-personal data treating social media as publishers.