

August Highlights

Monthly News Summary Dear Respected Member, ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is delighted to share its previous month's activities with

(APT) 45 IAFI's 21st Annual General Meeting: The 21st Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) was held on Thursday, 30th August 2024 at CSOI KG Marg, New Delhi. Total 28 members including Chairman and President, IAFI attended the meeting. Following

the Chairman's message, the President presented the Annual Report highlighting the Society's achievements. It was informed in the meeting that corporate membership of IAFI has increased to 27 corporate members (up from 22) and many new individual members also joined. Members were briefed about the participation of IAFI in ITU-R mega event WRC-23 at Dubai/ many ITU/APT meetings and other international events. The President also briefed regarding the all-major events organized by IAFI last year in India. The Treasurer, IAFI presented the Financial Statement of accounts of the society for the year 2023-24 and members were briefed about the improved financial health of IAFI in last four years, demonstrating a positive financial trend. Proposal for appointing auditors was presented by the treasurer and approved in the meeting. Lastly, election of the office bearer for the period 2024-26 was considered and declared elected: ITU publication regarding latest Radio Regulations-2024: The World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) was held at Dubai from 20 November to 15 December 2023 and took many decisions considered necessary or appropriate, including the review and revision of existing Resolutions and Recommendations and the adoption of various new Resolutions. On 19th Aug, 2024, Secretary General, ITU released the "Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication" Conference (WRC-23)", based the various resolutions and recommendations adopted by the WRC-

23. WRC-23 agreed for the partial revision of the 20 Articles, revision of 10 Appendixes, deletion of the 32 Resolutions, adoption of 43 new Resolutions and revision of four Recommendations of the Radio Regulations. All above decisions are included in the ITU publication "Final Act of WRC-23" containing 794 pages. Further ITU has released new Radio Regulations, Edition of 2024, it contains the complete texts of the Radio Regulations adopted by the World Radiocommunication Conference of 1995 (WRC-95) and reviewed by the subsequent World Radiocommunication Conferences: WRC-97 (Geneva, 1997), WRC-2000 (Istanbul, 2000), WRC-03 (Geneva, 2003), WRC-07 (Geneva, 2007), WRC-12 (Geneva, 2012), WRC-15 (Geneva, 2015), WRC-19 (Sharm el-Sheik, 2019) and WRC-23 (Dubai, 2023). Radio Regulations consists of four volumes I to IV, as detailed below. Volume - I - Radio Regulation Edition -2024 containing 59 Articles.

 Volume - II - Radio Regulation Edition -2024 containing 42 Appendices. Volume - III - Radio Regulation Edition -2024 containing 194 Resolutions and 25 Recommendations. Volume –IV - Radio Regulation Edition -2024 containing 40 references. The majority of the provisions of these Regulations shall enter into force as from 1 January 2025;

the remaining provisions shall apply as from the special dates of application indicated in Article 59 of the revised Radio Regulations. Meeting of the Working Group-3 of NFAP 2nd Meeting of the Working Group-3 (WG-3) of NFAP

was held on 27-08-2024 under the chairmanship of Shri M K Pattanaik, JWA, WPC wing of DoT, to discuss and review the issues between the frequency range 17.5 -31.0 GHz, to review of International Footnotes from 5.514 to 5.542 and relevant India Footnotes IND- 16,17,31,32 and 33. Three contributions were presented by IAFI and discussed in the meeting. 1. Contribution for updating National Frequency Allocation Table-2022 – proposed changes in the

India Footnote IND-17. 2. IAFI suggested suitable new remarks to be added in the NFAP – "The Frequency bands 18.1-18.6" GHz, 18.8-20.2 GHz and 27.5-30 GHz may be used for inter-satellite links in accordance with numbers 5.521A and 5.523DA of the Radio Regulations". 3. IAFI proposes to the Review Committee for NFAP 2022, to revised text for simplification of

remark IND16 - "The frequency bands 612-960, 1427-1518 MHz, 1710-2200 MHz, 2300- 2450 MHz, 2500-2690 MHz, 3300-3670 MHz, 24.25-27.5 GHz, 37-43.5 GHz, 47.2-48.2 GHz, 66-71GHz or parts thereof, have been identified for implementation of International Mobile

Telecommunications (IMT)". All above contributions were discussed in the meeting and Chair suggested some changes to be incorporated in the documents and to be re-submitted before the next meeting. **Radio Group preparatory meeting for the upcoming AWG-33:** A final preparatory meeting of the Radio Group of IAFI was held on 28-08-2024, to review the contributions to be submitted in the upcoming meeting of the AWG-33, likely to be held from September 09 to 13, 2024, in Bangkok,

Thailand. Meeting was arranged in a hybrid mode and many IAFI members and industry partners joined the meeting from India and abroad online. IAFI proposes to submit the following five documents in the AWG-33 meeting. 1. Working Document towards a draft new report on usage of cooperative vehicle-infrastructure systems 2. Proposed further updates to the Working Document towards draft revision of APT report on information of mobile operators' frequencies, technologies and license durations in Asia Pacific

technology, use cases, spectrum demand and regulatory development. 4. Proposed further updates to working document towards a draft new APT report on Terahertz (THz) fixed wireless systems operating in the frequency above 450 GHz. 5. Proposed further updates to the working document towards a draft new APT report on deployment approaches and solutions for IMT-2020/5G use case.

3. Proposed further updates to the working document towards a new APT report on WAS/RLAN

Meeting the Focus Group on Costing Model for Affordable Data Service: Third meeting ITU-T Focus Group on costing models for affordable data services (FG-CD) was held on 29-08-2024 from 1400 to 1600 Hrs CEST, in a virtual mode. Meeting was chaired by Shri S.K.Mishra. The mandate of FG-CD is to analyse the supply-chain of telecom/ICT, the multiple cost models and pricing strategies used for mobile data services and Internet services and study the policy, economic, regulatory and standardization aspects related to cost models for affordable data services, including

best practices of cost assessment methodologies and economic models. FG-CD consists of two working groups - WG-1 & 2. Chairs of both the working groups submitted their report regarding the activities performed after the last meeting. WG-1's chair requested that IAFI revise the questionnaire submitted with their previous contribution in a simpler yes/no format, instead of detailed explanatory answers. This would make it easier for members to respond. IAFI agreed to submit the revised questionnaire before the next meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for

IAFI letter to Minister of Communication regarding de-licensing of 5G CNPN: At a recent meeting with the Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Communication, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI highlighted the various challenges faced by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and the broader telecommunications industries, as these challenges are impacting the domestic manufacturing of telecom equipment in India. Meanwhile, in a letter to the Minister IAFI while expressing gratitude for the positive changes introduced in the Telecom Act 2023, also pointed out the need for immediate attention to captive network authorizations. IAFI further emphasized the importance of captive and private 5G networks for industrial growth, efficiency, security, and digital transformation. It argues that these networks should be exempted from authorization as they are like home Wi-Fi networks and lack commercial intent. To expedite the process, IAFI suggested establishing a new "Class Authorization" category for captive networks. This consolidated approach;

encompassing diverse captive licenses, aims to foster the conducive ecosystem for proliferation of captive and private 5G networks in India, thereby stimulating economic growth and innovation.

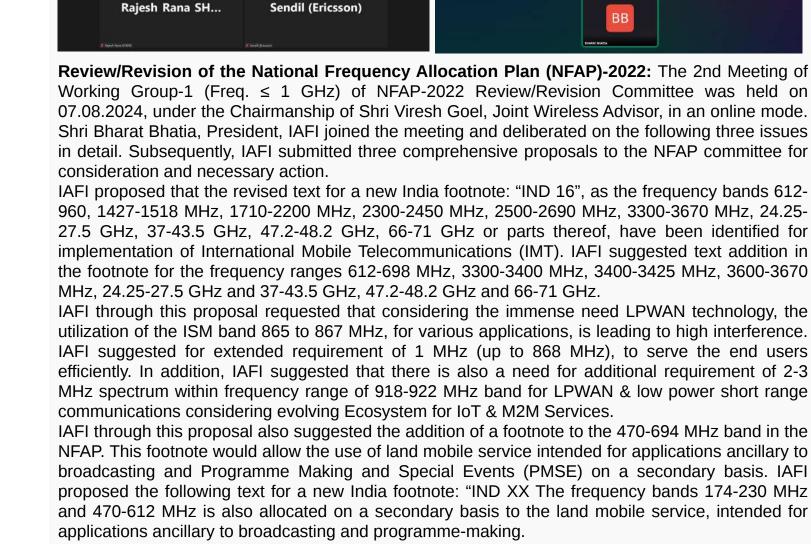
IAFI in its press release opposes the merging of GMPCS and VSAT licenses: IAFI in a Press Release expressed strong opposition to the proposed merger of GMPCS and VSAT authorizations. IAFI argues that these services are fundamentally different and should retain separate licenses. IAFI in a written reply to the TRAI's consultation paper on the new Telecom Act, vehemently

https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/iafi-calls-for-delicensing-of-captive-5g-networks/

November 2024 in virtual mode.

opposed the proposed merger of GMPCS and VSAT authorizations. Additionally, IAFI emphasized the importance of a smooth transition to the new law, minimizing disruptions to existing operators and encouraging new investments and calls for equal treatment of licenses issued under the old and new laws. Finally, IAFI urged the government to expedite the process for issuing rules and spectrum assignments for Non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO) satellites to promote faster and more reliable internet access in remote areas. https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/iafi-urges-trai-to-separate-vsat-gmpcs-licenses-minimizetelecom-disruptions/

Jitendra's iPhone



technology, use cases, spectrum demand and regulatory development. 4. Proposed further updates to working document towards a draft new apt report on Terahertz (THz) fixed wireless systems operating in the frequency above 450 GHz. 5. Proposed further updates to the working document towards a draft new APT report on deployment approaches and solutions for IMT-2020/5G use cases. 6. It was decided that next Radio Group meeting will be held at 14.30 PM on 28th August and it will be the final meeting for AWG-33 document drafting. The deadline for submitting contributions to the upcoming AWG-33 is September 2, 2024.

IAFI attended APT-WTSA-24-5: IAFI President, Shri Bharat Bhatia physically participated in the 5th and Final APT Preparatory Group Meeting for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA 24-5), that took place from August 19 to 23, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand. Mr. Kishore Narang IAFI members also attended the meeting in person along with many other members participating online. IAFI had earlier submitted more than 15 input documents on various resolutions that will be discussed in the meeting, 51 documents containing proposals of various member administrations, were discussed. It may be noted that APT WTSA-24-5 is the last APT meeting to finalize the proposals to be sent to WTSA-24,

Preparatory meeting for the upcoming AWG-33 A preparatory meeting of the Radio Group of IAFI was held on 14-08-2024, to review the contributions to be submitted in the upcoming meeting of the AWG-33, likely to held from September 09 to 13, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand. Since the meeting was arranged in a hybrid mode many IAFI members and industry partners joined the meeting from India and abroad online. IAFI is working on the following six documents, for

1. Working Document towards draft new APT report on methodology and pricing of IMT spectrum in

2. Proposed further updates to the Working Document towards draft revision of APT report on information of mobile operators' frequencies, technologies and license durations in Asia Pacific

3. APT report on the status of implementation of APT 700 band plan in Asia Pacific countries. Proposed further updates to the working document towards a new APT report on WAS/RLAN

submission to AWG-33.

countries.

Asia Pacific countries.

DoT proposal to develop new National Digital Communication Policy: In light of the swift progress in telecom technologies and the increasing reliance on ICT, the Department of Telecommunications has initiated process for the development of a Digital communications Policy for the next five years, replacing the existing policy NDCP-2018. The Policy will serve as a blueprint for India's digital communications sector, guiding its growth and evolution. The proposed policy will

comprehensively incorporate a wide range of perspectives and strategies to address the sector's present and future needs. Director General, National Communication Academy (erstwhile NTIPRIT), DoT, Ghaziabad vide letter dated 16-08-2024, addressed to Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI intimated that the National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT) has been mandated to lead to the consultation process, to gather valuable inputs that will help shape this crucial policy frame-work. The draft policy should outline new initiatives to create an ICT-powered India over the next five years. It must address key areas such as telecom infrastructure development, universal connectivity, skill development, cybersecurity, fostering innovation, improving the business environment, promoting entrepreneurship, achieving self-reliance in telecom equipment, boosting telecom exports, and strengthening the

likely to be held from 15th Oct to 24th Oct, 2024 at New Delhi.

MSME ecosystem within the telecom supply chain.

extended deadline of August 8, 2024.

billion.

Bangkok, Thailand. This hybrid plenary will address critical aspects of emerging wireless systems to navigate the rapidly evolving digital landscape in the Asia-Pacific region. By fostering effective radio-communication solutions and facilitating technology and knowledge transfer, the AWG-33 will review on-going initiatives, assess progress, and explore new avenues for collaboration. IAFI has been an active participant in all previous AWG meetings, consistently contributing to discussions on critical issues. The deadline for submitting contributions to the upcoming AWG-33 is September 2, 2024. IAFI comments on the TRAI Consultation Paper regarding the Service Authorisations: In December 2023, the Indian Parliament passed the Telecommunication Act, 2023, consolidating and amending regulations for the development, expansion, and operation of telecommunication services and networks, spectrum allocation, and related matters. The Act empowers the Central Government to authorize entities or individuals to provide telecommunication services under specified terms and conditions, including fees. Following the Department of Telecommunications

letter of June 21, 2024, TRAI released a comprehensive consultation paper on July 11, 2024. This paper outlined the framework for service authorizations under the new Telecommunication Act and sought stakeholder input on 61 questions. The deadline for comments, initially was August 1, 2024, extended to August 8, 2024. IAFI conducted a detailed analysis of the consultation paper, engaging with industry partners to develop a comprehensive response, which was submitted to TRAI by the

India-Made Telecom Equipment now being exported to more than 100 Nation nations: Ms. Madhu Arora, Member (Technology), Digital Communications Commission, Department of Telecom, during the "Defence Sector ICT Conclave" informed that many of India's home-grown telecom companies have made their mark in Western nations, including the US, despite fierce global competition. Designed and manufactured in India, telecom equipment are now being exported to over 100 countries and last year, the country exported telecom equipment and services worth more than \$18.2 billion. She further informed that the Indian Army has recently integrated its first indigenous chip-based 4G mobile base station, developed by our own R&D firms. India has emerged as one of the top five investors in Africa, with cumulative investments of around \$75

The 33rd Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-33): The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) will host the 33rd Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-33) from September 9 to 13, 2024, in

1. IAFI urges TRAI to separate VSAT, GMPCS licenses, minimize telecom disruptions Read More

2. IAFI calls for Delicensing of Captive 5G networks under Service Authorisations to be Granted

4. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a press release applauded TRAI for releasing a

Bharat Bhatia, president ITU APT Foundation of India has been elected to chair the global group

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

5. 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

Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. Read More

in ITU that will decide the 6G standards. Read More

6G Technology ecosystem and services. Read More

issuance of rules under the telecom act. Read More

telecommunication standardization. Read More

4.0. Read More

More

Organised By **IAFI**

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

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 7. 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 DoT to resolve 5G coexistence with radio altimeters, start studies on CBRS: Official Read More 9. 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

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

11. IAFI has urged the Department of Telecommunications to promptly process applications for the assignment of satellite spectrum, specifically for VSAT and similar services authorized under unified licenses. The request aims to prevent any delays in the launch of services by VSAT and other satellite operators, emphasizing the importance of adherence to existing guidelines. Read

12. The first national preparatory workshop for the World Telecommunication Standardization

of WTSA, review of existing resolutions, and proposals for new resolutions in the field of

Assembly (WTSA-24) was organized by the Telecom Engineering Centre of the Department of Telecom and IAFI. The workshop focused on key topics such as the structure and organization

UPCOMING EVENT

ITU-APT Foundation of India

10. In the 45th meeting of WP5D of the ITU-R in Geneva (January 31 to February 7, 2024), a

promoting financial inclusion and driving economic growth. Read More

4th India Spectrum **Management Conference** 7-8 November 2024 & New Delhi, India #ISMC24 Register Now

Links to our Activities & Programmes

1) Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government

2) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways Request for Industry consultation

of India Request for IAFI's recommendation for Delicensing of Captive 5G networks under

Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.







Telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently met with top telecom service providers to discuss the regulation of Over-the-Top (OTT) communication services. The meeting included Vodafone Idea CEO Akshaya Moondra, Reliance Jio managing director Pankaj Pawar, and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) Director General S P Kochhar. BSNL Chairman Robert J Ravi also participated. Telcos reiterated their demand to bring OTT services like WhatsApp, Telegram, and Skype under regulation, referencing the Telecommunication Act 2023. They argued that the bill's broad definition of "message" could encompass OTT communication services. Other topics included relaxing norms for quality of service. Kochhar said TSPs still grapple with Right of Way (RoW) issues when acquiring permissions for infra deployment on public and private land for

IAFI circulated the meeting invitation to members for 25th Meeting of the South Asian



installation of towers and fiber-optic cables.

TRAI invited written comments from the stakeholders on a consultation paper regarding the determination of the reserve price for auction of FM Radio Channel under FM Phase-III policy. MIB vide letter dated 19.03.2024 provided a list of 20 cities in Hilly states/UTs of Himachal Pradesh, 4 Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir, to TRAI and requested to recommend reserve prices for these cities. In its letter MIB also conveyed introducing a new city category, i.e. category 'E'. MIB further proposed that all the technical parameters applicable for category 'D' cities, except for ERP may apply to category 'E'. The proposed ERP for Category 'E' is 750W to 1 KW. MIB vide its letter dated 09.04.2024 further clarified that TRAI has already recommended the reserve price for the city of Anantnag in its 2020 recommendations and that of Rudrapur (Uttarakhand) belongs to Category 'D' as its population exceeds 1 lakh according to census 2011. Accordingly, for remaining 18 new cities, the new Category 'E' has been proposed. Therefore, TRAI prepared the Consultation Paper

(CP) to solicit comments and views of all stakeholders on the determination of reserve prices for auction of FM Radio channels, under FM Phase-III Policy. Follow us on:- (f) X in 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 - Web: iafi.in If you do not want to receive this mailer, you can unsubscribe here from our mailing list.

