

December Highlights

Monthly News Summary Dear Respected Member,

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

Meeting of the Working Group -1(WG-1) of NFAP-2022: The 5th Meeting of Working Group-1 (Freq. upto 1 GHz) of NFAP-2022 Review/Revision Committee was held on 23.12.2024 under the Chairmanship of Shri Viresh Goel, Joint Wireless Adviser, in the online mode. Representatives from Industry, Academia, officers from the Wireless Planning Co-ordination Wing of the Department of Telecommunications, and other Government Organizations such as JCES, AAI, CDOT, MIB,

Doordarshan, NCRA-GMRT etc. participated in the meeting and took part in the discussions and deliberations. The meeting started with the welcome address and overview from the Chairman, highlighting the salient points of discussions and deliberations on various input documents received by WG-1. It is pertinent to mention here that the 4th meeting of the WG-1 was held on 12th Dec, 2024, where IAFI presented three documents as detailed below. 1. Proposal for use frequency band 174-230 MHz and 470-612 MHz for Audio PMSE -IAFI presented their input contribution on Audio PMSE in frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-612 MHz IAFI representative highlighted that Audio PMSE was limited to 612 MHz in order to avoid any kind of interference to future deployments to Cellular Mobile Services. It was also clearly mentioned by IAFI representative that in Region 3, the Land Mobile, PMSE along with Broadcasting is Primary Service along with IMT and Region 1 allocations does not have any impact on Region 3. IMT and PMSE (which comes under Land Mobile Service) both enjoy primary status in the frequency bands under consideration.

2. NB-IoT working in the frequency band 867-868 MHz, 918- 922 MHz - IAFI presented an input document to support NB-IoT in 918-922 MHz band. It is proposed to add the following text to NFAP as a new India footnote to support NB-IoT: "The frequency range 918-922 MHz band may be used for LPWAN & low power short range communications, in addition to the band 865-868 MHz". 3. Simplification of IND 16 table, deletion of Note 1 and Note 2 of IND 16 - IAFI also submitted a input document on NFAP footnote IND 16. The proposal of IAFI was to convert the table in IND 16 to paragraph format specifying that it would be easier to comprehend. More importantly, the proposal sought for deletion of Note 1 and Note 2 of IND 16.

All these contributions were considered by the meeting and suitable incorporated in the draft NFAP after detailed discissions. 4th meeting of Working Group-2 (1 to 6 GHz) of NFAP review/ revision: The Fourth meeting of Working Group-2 (WG-2) to review/ revise National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) 2022 under the chairmanship of Sh. N K Bhola, Director(A), Wireless Monitoring Organization was held on 30.12.2024 in hybrid mode at Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi. IAFI along with stakeholders from various Government Departments, Telecom Service Providers, Manufacturers, Academia, Associations etc. participated in the meeting. All proposals including IAFI proposals were discussed

7th Meeting of the NWP-5D3: India along with IAFI is actively contributing to the ITU-R's work on defining the minimum technical performance requirements for IMT-2030 (essentially, 6G) candidate radio interface technologies. This includes proposing updates to key documents that will guide the evaluation and development of 6G standards. A major focus is on defining and refining the technical performance Requirements (TPRs) for 6G. India is working to ensure these requirements are comprehensive and address the needs of diverse usage scenarios and test environments. This is critical for ensuring that 6G technologies meet real-world demands. The transition from 5G (IMT-2020) to 6G (IMT-2030) requires a re-assessment of network metrics. This is important to

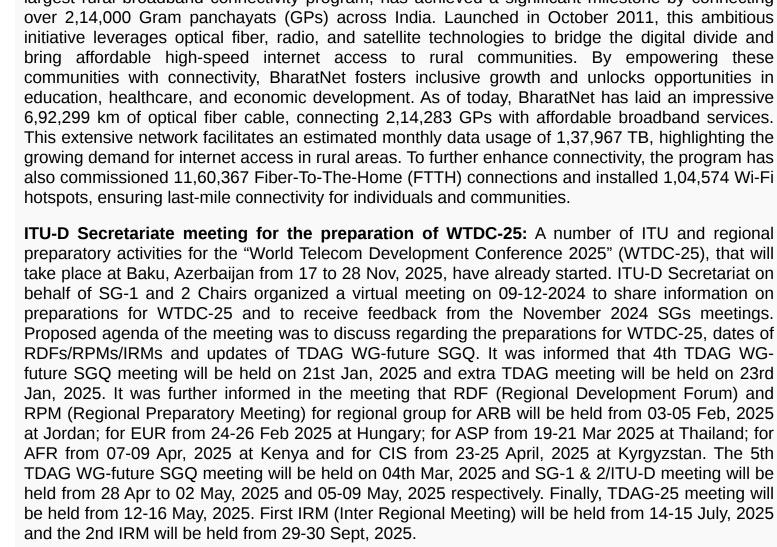
and suitable amendments were made to the NFAP draft.

Things (IoT) era. Meeting organized by IAFI regarding Satellite Earth Station Gateway (SESG): In response to TRAI's consultation paper regarding Network Authorization, IAFI submitted its view that there should be a separate light-touch registration for SESG/Satellite Communication Network operators, eliminating the need for traditional licenses/ authorisation. It was also suggested that the SESG/Satellite Communication Network operator should be allowed to acquire/ use spectrum required for the operation of SESGs/SNPs (for establishing the feeder link with the satellite) and to install baseband equipment at the SESGs/SNPs. IAFI approach aims to reduce regulatory barriers and encourage the growth of satellite-based communication services. To develop unified views on the issue, a virtual meeting was organized by IAFI on 18-12-2024, to discuss the critical issues

WP-5D is 23-01-2025. Third virtual meeting of NWG-20 is scheduled on 19th December 2024: Third virtual meeting of NWG-20 corresponding to ITU-T SG-20 (Internet of things (IoT), Digital Twins and Smart Cities & Communities) was held on 19th December 2024 (Thursday) at 2:00 PM in hybrid mode. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss and finalize contributions for the forthcoming meeting of ITU-T SG-20, likely to be held from 15-24 January 2025, Geneva. Shri R S Singh, DDG (IoT) was the chair of the meeting and Ms Namrata Singh, Dir (IoT) was the convener of the meeting. Total 15 documents were presented in the meeting. TEC presented six contributions, suggesting modifications/updates on the existing ITU-T SG-20 working documents (TD-1508, 124, 125, 130, 444 and 469) and nine new contributions were presented by the various stakeholders.

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IAFI Radio Group Meeting – 12-12-2024: The IAFI Radio Group meeting was convened on 12th Dec, 2024, in hybrid format, to review the preparations for WP-5D meeting, and to review the contributions already prepared and finalize remaining topics, on which IAFI can submit contributions in the upcoming meetings of the Working Party 5D (WP-5D) of ITU-R, tentatively scheduled for 04-13 February, 2025. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI chaired the meeting. Total four preliminarily developed contributions were discussed in the meeting and remaining issues were identified for submission. It was decided to hold next meeting on 19th Dec, 2024 at 1200 Hrs. It may be noted that the deadline for submission of the contribution to WP-5D is 23-01-2025. The Schedule of Radio group meetings to finalize the IAFI contributions is given below. Please contact the secretariat to join these meetings.

Meeting Dates Activity:

were discussed.

foundational understanding for all new members.

Later, following documents were presented in the meeting.

3. iii. ITU Template for justification for new work item

1. i. Copy of the presentation made during NWG-20 meeting.

collaboration with stakeholders.

1. 1st Prep Meeting 27-11-2024 - Initial list prepared

3. 3rd Prep Meeting 19-12-2024 - Initial drafts discussed

2. 2nd Prep Meeting 12-12-2024 - Documents drafts assigned

4. 4th Prep Meeting 09-01-2025 - Final drafts to be considered

5. 5th Prep Meeting 16-01-2025 - Contributions to be finalized and approved

contributions (2 by WG1, 6 by WG2 and 3 by WG3) were discussed in the meeting. Out of 11 contributions, 7 contributions were submitted by China, 2 by Iran, 1 by Korea and 1 by Vietnam.

The 3rd meeting of the APT-WTDC-25-3 will be held from 17-19 March, 2025 at Bangkok, Thailand

in hybrid mode. IAFI members desiring to participate in the meeting may contact the secretariat.

Aarush Quresh Vinosh, QC Shure Inc. Nada Abdelhafez Bashir Patel The DoT is working for the best possible solution for the use of 6GHz spectrum band: Shri Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, DoT told ET Telecom that the department is aware about the need or demand of 6GHz spectrum for both Wi-Fi and mobile services and DoT is working with all stakeholders to find an optimal and best possible solution. He further said that the department is working aggressively on curbing cellular spam calls originating from multiple overseas destinations. DoT has taken the initiative for prevention of international spoof calls. These will be further

strengthened. The telecom service providers are also taking their own initiative in this direction.

Meeting of Study Group -5 (SG-5) under ITU-R: 2nd Meeting of the SG-5 after WRC-23 (Dubai) was held from 02-12-2024 to 03-12-2024 at Geneva, Switzerland in a hybrid mode. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI participated in the meeting physically. Summary record of the 1st meeting of the SG-5, held on 13-05-2024 was discussed. Regarding distribution of work of SG-5 among four working parties, three proposals from Russia, Brazil and Canada were discussed and it was decided to continue with the existing ToR assigned to working parties WP-5A, 5B, 5C and 5D for the new study cycle (2024-27), except to the extent that all studies regarding Air-2-Ground communications in the land mobile service will be handled by the WP5D and the current A2G report in WP5A will be transferred to WP5D. While the all documents of WP- 5A, 5B and 5C were approved by the SG-5 plenary, all three proposals regarding revised/new recommendations of the WP-5D were not accepted. Regarding two proposed new Recommendations on unwanted emission by IMT-2020 BS and MS, Russian Administration did not agree with last minute changes made during the SG5 plenary meeting and asked to return the same to WP-5D for re-consideration. Similarly, Draft revised recommendation ITU-R M.1036-7 dealing with the frequency assignment to

IMT systems, was objected by the USA and not adopted by the SG-5 plenary. Next meeting of the SG-5 will be held from 01-12-2025 to 02-12-2025. ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar 2024 (WRS-24): The ITU organizes World Radiocommunication Seminars (WRSs) on a biennial basis, in complement to the cycle of Regional Radiocommunication Seminars (RRSs). Each WRS deals with the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and, for space services, the associated satellite orbits, and with the application of the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations. This year, ITU-R organized World Radiocommunication Seminars (WRSs) from 02-12-2024 to 06- 12-2024. in two parts: Part 1: WRS-24: Plenary Sessions, 2-3 December (09:30-12:30 / 14:00-17:00) The Plenary sessions covered general radio-communication related matters, applications of ITU Radio Regulations and trends in various radio- communication services. It included an introduction to the activities and work of the ITU-R Study Groups, the Radio Regulations Board, the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA) and the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), with a focus on the outcome of the WRC-23 conference. Part 2: WRS-24: Terrestrial and Space Workshops, 4-6 December The Workshops (parallel sessions for space and terrestrial services) enabled participants to prepare their own schedules, based on their interests, including the possibility of alternating between space and terrestrial services and between lectures and practical sessions. It allowed participants to gain

4. iv. ITU Template for use case submission in ITU-T SG-20 5. v. Copy of draft contributions on draft Recommendation ITU-T Y.IoT-smartschool "Requirements of IoT-based smart school management system". All members were informed about the upcoming meeting of the ITU-T SG-20 which will be recently held at Geneva, Switzerland from 15 to 24 January 2025, so the second virtual NWG-20 meeting will be held on 12th December 2024 at 11 AM. IAFI's new contribution to WG-3 of NFAP 2022 Review/ Revision Committee: IAFI has submitted a new proposal to WG-3 of NFAP-2022 regarding temporary exemption from antenna

2. ii. Updated list of active/ on-going work items under different questions of ITU-T SG-20

1. IAFI in the comprehensive comment on TRAI Consultation Paper concerning terms and

issues, Direct broadcast to Mobile, GSO/NGSO issues and Read More

regulatory environment Read More

4.0. Read More

More

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ensure robust telecom infrastructure, equitable spectrum access and innovation friendly

conditions of network authorization under new Telecom Act, 2023, highlighted critical reforms to

2. 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

- 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
- 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
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TELESAT

Partners Association

ACCESS.SPACE

Activities in our focus areas during August 2024

OneWeb

SHURE

USITUA

The United States ITU Association

WIRELESS WORLD

Qualcomm

Viasat:**

sykotech

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS

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APAC IPv6

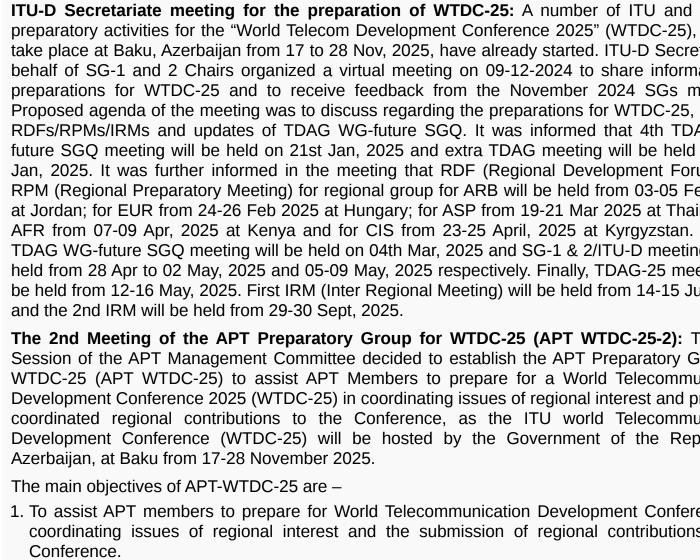
APT- IAFI circulated the meeting invitation to members to register and attend the 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-2), scheduled to be held from 10 to 11 December 2024, Virtual/Online Meeting.

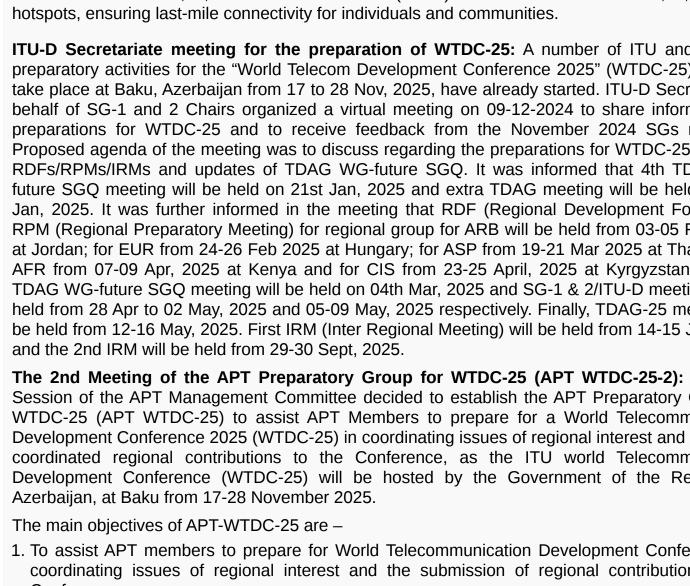


TRAI released a Consultation Paper on 22-10-2024, for seeking comments from stakeholders regarding the Terms and Conditions of Network Authorisations to be granted under the new Telecommunications Act, 2023. Total 32 stakeholder offered comments including IAFI and 11 offered counter-comments. On 17-12-2024, TRAI organized an Open House Discussion (OHD) under the chairmanship of Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI virtually. In addition, Shri Atul Kumar Chaudhary, Secretary, TRAI; Shri S B Singh, Pr Advisor (NSL); Shri A K Trivedi, Advisor (NSL-II); Shri D. Manoj, Pr Advisor (F&EA) and Shri Vijay Kumar, Advisor (F&EA-I) attended the OHD on behalf TRAI. The Open House Discussion (OHD) saw participation from key industry figures, including Shri U.K. Shrivastava (Reliance Jio), Shri Tarun Chitkara (Airtel), Shri Fahim Shekh (Amazon), Shri Debashish Chakravorty (BIF), and Shri Praveen Sharma and Shri Manoj Kumar (TATA Communications). Representatives from industry bodies like COAI, ISPAI, VIL, SIA,

accommodate new technologies and evolving user needs. IAFI's suggestion to include "connection" density per square meter instead of existing practice of per square kilometre" was accepted and included in the report. This metric will help network operators plan and optimize their 6G networks more effectively, especially with the anticipated increase in connected devices in the Internet of involved and to develop a common agenda among stakeholders. IAFI Radio Group Meeting – 19-12-2024: The IAFI Radio Group meeting was convened on 19th Dec, 2024 at 1200 Hrs in hybrid format, to review the preparations for WP-5D meeting, and to review and finalize the documents, already prepared and identifying new topics, on which IAFI can submit contributions in the upcoming meetings of the Working Party 5D (WP-5D) of ITU-R, tentatively scheduled for 04-13 February, 2025. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI chaired the meeting. Total five contributions were discussed in the meeting and remaining issues were identified for submission. It may be noted that the deadline for submission of the contribution to

BharatNet connects over 2.14 lakh gram panchayats with broadband: BharatNet, the world's largest rural broadband connectivity program, has achieved a significant milestone by connecting





hands-on experience with ITU notification procedures as well as with the software, databases and electronic publications made available by the Radiocommunication Bureau to the ITU membership. Meeting of the NWG-20 organized by the TEC: The First virtual meeting of National Working Group-20 (NWG-20) corresponding to ITU-T SG-20, regarding Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Twins and Smart Sustainable Cities & Communities (SSC&C), for the Study Period 2025-28, was organized by the TEC on 5th Dec 2024. The agenda of the meeting was to apprise members about ITU, ITU-T SG-20 and procedure for submitting the contributions. During initial discussion, following

1. Brief presentation on the ITU-T structure, process of writing contributions etc, to provide

2. An ice-breaking and brainstorming session to identify key areas requiring standardization work, in

size restriction in RR 5.502, pending for WRC-27 decision on Agenda 1.2 for Ku band to support lower cost of equipment, increased availability and efficient spectrum use. India had already supported this proposal in APG and WRC-23. The Radio Regulation - 5.502 and WRC 27 Agenda Item - 1.2 dealt with the possible revisions of sharing conditions in the frequency band 13.75- 14 GHz to allow the use of uplink fixed-satellite service earth stations with smaller antenna sizes, in accordance with Resolution 129 (WRC-23). IAFI in the contribution submitted, suggested that till the pending decisions of WRC-27 on Agenda item 1.2, remove the restriction on minimum Antenna size, for the frequency band 13.75-14 GHz on a national basis - in abrogation of 5.502 of RR, while

maintaining other limits in 5.502 by adding a new India Remark - "IND-XX Pending the decision of WRC-27 on Agenda item 1.2, smaller antennae sizes below 1.2 meters may be permitted in the frequency band 13.75-14 GHz in FSS on a national basis, subject to all other conditions of RR

5.502 being met". IAFI contribution will be presented during the upcoming meeting of WG-3.

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

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 4. 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

9. 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

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

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 16. 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

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

Links to our Activities & Programmes

1) Letter to Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Shri P K Mishra for PMO Support

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

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

4) Letter to Secretary, Ministry of Power Request for Implementing Green Open Access Rules for

5) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of

6) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Devices

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

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

17. 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

telecommunication standardization. Read More

needed for Innovation and Local Manufacturing

on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023

pertaining to Satellite Communications

Eminent educational institutes as members.

Communication Services

Spectrum Swapping

HUGHES

the Telecom Sector in States/UTs

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)

12) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Suggestions for formulation of a new Policy for

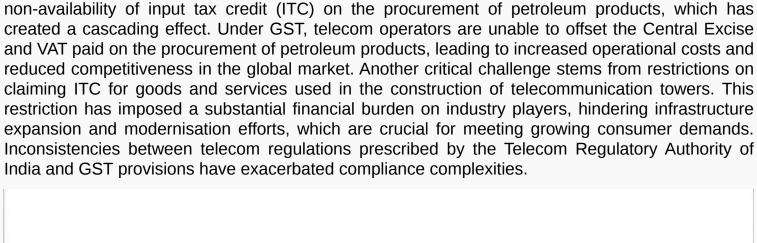
IAFI MEMBERSHIP

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

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. Please click: Membership

11) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite

- <u>details</u> amazon nirtel 🦪 **BSNL**



and IAFI also contributed to the discussion. Following the Secretary's proposal, the TRAI Chairman extended the deadline for stakeholder to submit further inputs by December 23rd, 2024.



Telecom industry highlighted issues under the GST regime. One of the most pressing issues is the

Jyotiraditya Scindia. Union Minister of Communications in the Capital.

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

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

Discussion points included: