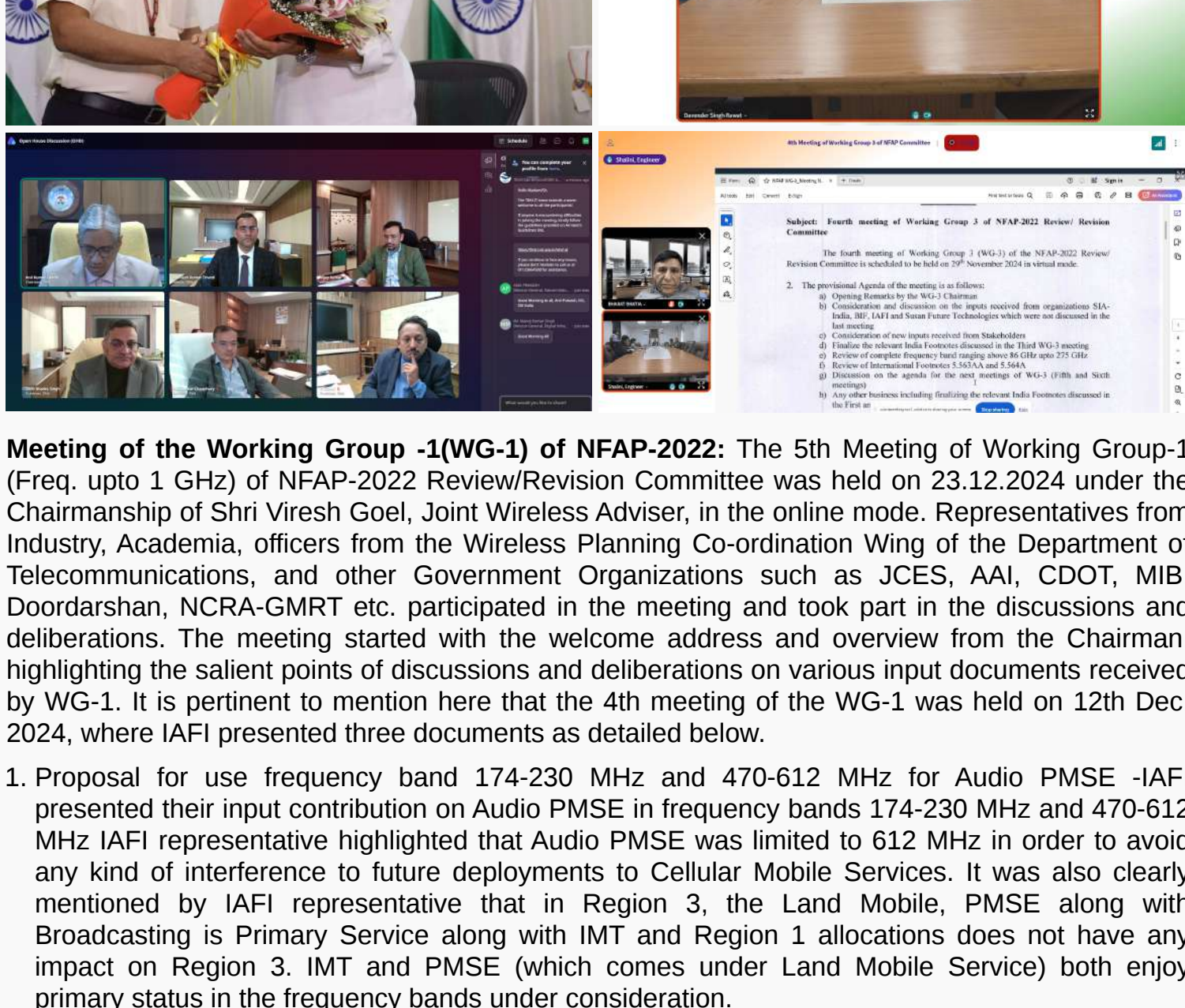


Dear Respected Member,

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 (Req. upto 1 GHz) of the 1022 Review/Revision Committee was held on 22-12-2024 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, MB, Doordarshan, NCPA-CMFR, 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 WG-1 was held on 15th Dec, 2024, where IAFI presented three documents as detailed below.

- 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 residential use in order to avoid any kind of interference to future deployments to Cellular Mobile Service. 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.
- 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 should be used for LPWAN & low power short range communications. In addition to the band 865- 868 MHz.
- Simplification of IND 15 table, deletion of Note 1 and Note 2 of IND 16** - IAFI also submitted a formal document on IND 15 table and 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 discussions.

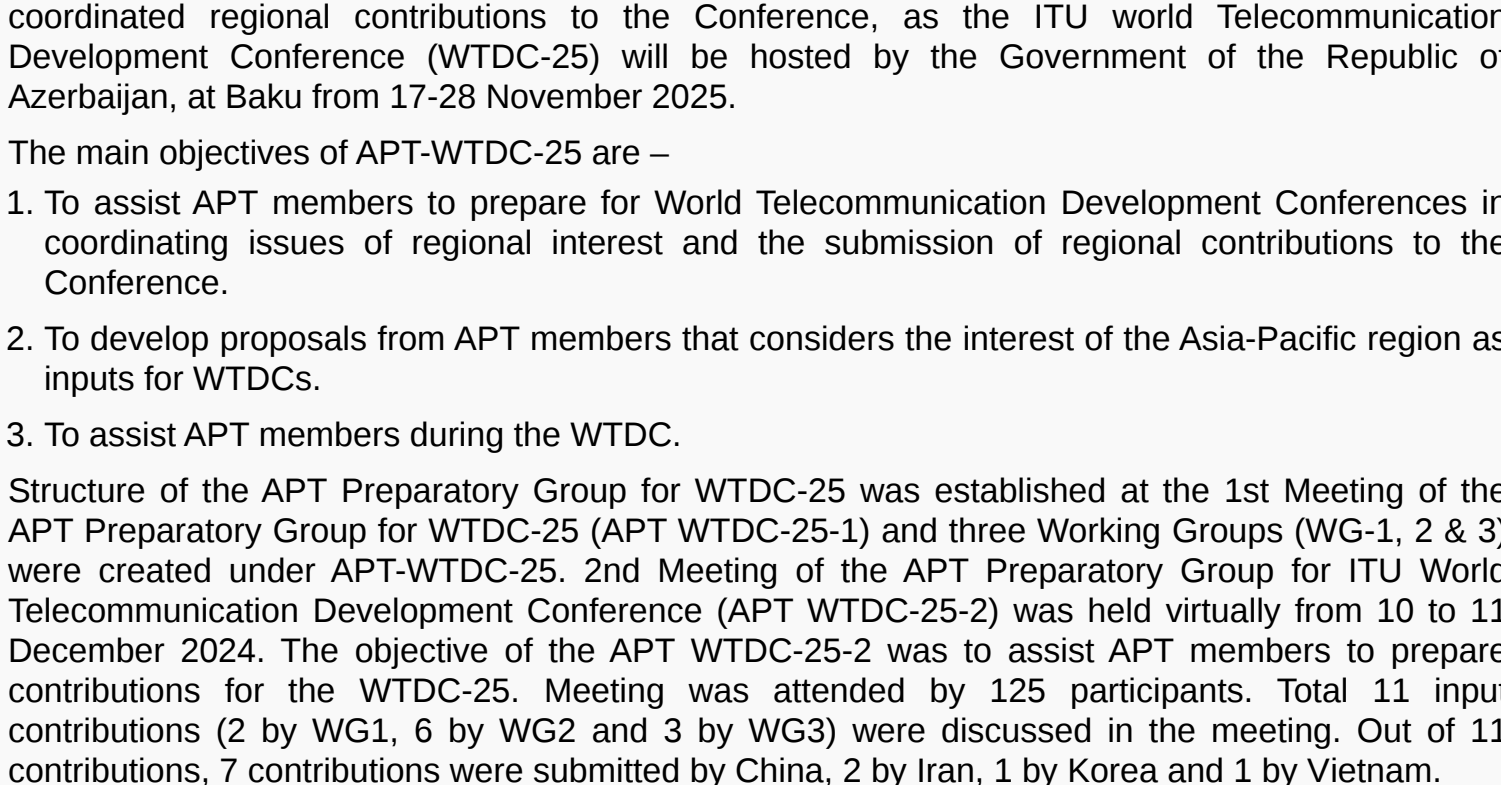
**4th Meeting of Working Group-2 (1 to 6 GHz) of NFAP review revision:** The Fourth meeting of Working Group-2 (WG-2) to review/review National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) 2022 under the chairmanship of Sh. N K Bholia, Director(A), Wireless Monitoring Organization was held on 30-12-2024 in hybrid mode at Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi. IAFI along with stakeholders from various Government Departments, Telecom Service Providers, Manufacturers, Academic Associations etc. participated in the meeting. All proposals including IAFI proposals were discussed and suitable amendments were made to the NFAP draft.

**7th Meeting of the NWP-50S:** 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 (TRPs) for 6G. India is working to ensure that 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.

**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 licensed spectrum. 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 burden 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 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 documents prepared for WP-5D meeting, and to submit and finalize the documents, already prepared and identifying new topics, on which IAFI can review 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 WP-5D is 23-01-2025.

**The virtual meeting of NWG-20 is scheduled on 19th December 2024:** A third virtual meeting of NWG-20 corresponding to ITU-T SC-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 P S Singh, Director (IoT) was the chair of the meeting and Ms Namrata Singh, Dr (IoT) was the convener of the meeting. Total 15 documents were presented in the meeting. TEC presented six contributions, suggesting modifications/updates to the existing ITU-T SG-20 working documents (TD-155S, TD-124, 125, 130, 444 and 469) and nine new contributions were presented by the various stakeholders.



**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 over 2.14,00,000 Gram panchayats (GPs) across India. Launched in October 2011, this ambitious initiative leverages optical fiber, FTCoE and satellite (LEO) to bring the digital divide and bring affordable high-speed internet access to rural communities. Empowering these communities with connectivity, BharatNet fosters inclusive growth and unlocks opportunities in education, healthcare, and economic development. As of today, BharatNet has laid an impressive 5,92,89 km of optical fiber cable, connecting 1,14,293 GPs with affordable broadband services. This extensive network facilitates an estimated monthly data usage of 1,36,76 TB, highlighting the growing demand for internet access in rural areas. To further enhance connectivity, the program has also commissioned 11,667 Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections and installed 1,04,574 Wi-Fi hotspots, ensuring last-mile connectivity for individuals and communities.

**ITU-D Secretariat meeting for the preparatory of WTDC-25:** An number of ITU-D regional preparatory conference for WTDC-25 and to discuss regional activities for WTDC-25 (WTDC-25), that will take place at Baku, Azerbaijan from 17 to 28 Nov, 2025, have already started. ITU-D Secretariat on reduced contributions to WTDC-25. 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.

**The 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC-25-2):** The 47th Session of APT Management Committee decided to establish the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC-25) to assist APT Members to prepare for a World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25) in coordinating issues of regional interest and preparing coordinated regional contributions to the Conference, as the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) will be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, at Baku from 17-28 November 2025.

- The main objectives of APT-WTDC-25 are –

- To assist APT members to prepare for World Telecommunication Development Conferences in coordinating issues of regional interest and the submission of regional contributions to the Conference.
- To develop proposals from APT members that considers the interest of the Asia-Pacific region as inputs for WTDCs.
- To assist APT members during the WTDC.

Structure of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 was established at the 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC-25-1) on 19th March, 2024 at Hanoi, Viet Nam. Working Groups (WG) were created under the APT-WTDC-25. 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (APT WTDC-25-2) was held virtually from 10 to 11 December 2024. The objective of the APT WTDC-25-2 was to assist APT members to prepare contributions for the WTDC-25. Meeting was attended by working participants from 11 countries. 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.

**IAFI Radio Group Meeting - 12-12-2024:** The IAFI Radio Group meeting was convened on 12th Dec, 2024, in hybrid mode at Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi. IAFI along with stakeholders from various Government Departments, Telecom Service Providers, Manufacturers, Academic Associations etc. participated in the meeting. All proposals including IAFI proposals were discussed and suitable amendments were made to the NFAP draft.

**IAFI Secretariat meeting for the preparatory of WTDC-25:** An number of ITU-D regional preparatory conference for WTDC-25 and to discuss regional activities for WTDC-25 (WTDC-25), that will take place at Baku, Azerbaijan from 17 to 28 Nov, 2025, have already started. ITU-D Secretariat on reduced contributions to WTDC-25. 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.

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