December Highlights

# Monthly News Summary

**Dear Respected Member,**

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

**India Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC-2025): Day-1:** The ITU-APT Foundation of India (APT) successfully inaugurated its premier flagship event, the India Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC), 2025, from December 15-16, 2025, at Hotel The Claridges, New Delhi. This landmark event brought together over 500 delegates, including senior officials from the telecommunications ministries and regulatory bodies from across the Asia-Pacific region, alongside global stakeholders. The conference was attended by over 100 national and international experts representing government bodies, academia, and the private sector, collaborating on the future of spectrum policy and management. The event serves as a vital preparation for WRC-27. The roadmap for 5G and IMT Spectrum, Satellite Communication and Broadband Connectivity, Spectrum Sharing and Coexistence, and Spectrum Management for Emerging Technologies. The Inaugural Session featured a distinguished panel of guests, including Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India; Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi (Retd), CEO and Chairman, COAI Board; Mr. Neeraj Mittal, Member, Director, BK, IPR, and Charles Cooper, Associate Administrator, NTIA, USA. In his keynote address, Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti emphasized the critical role of spectrum as a national asset and the need for a robust, forward-looking coverage to derive maximum socio-economic benefits for citizens and the nation.

Day 1 provided deep insights into the intricate value of spectrum across various sectors through Technical Sessions on Spectrum Management for Emerging Technologies, Spectrum for 5G, IMT and Terrestrial Mobile Footing, chaired by Shri T. T. Mahesh, Sr. DDG and Head, TEC; focusing on Spectrum Sharing and Coexistence, chaired by Shri Ajit Pal Singh Tuli, Sr. DDG, WPC; and Spectrum Directive, IN-SPACe, detailed the spectrum roadmap for satellite communication and Wi Fi Spectrum Sharing, chaired by Shri Ashish Chandra, Secretary, MeitY. The session on Day 1 also saw the successfully indigo! the pan-Network global regulatory vision and the implementation strategies. By bringing together key stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific and APT with alongside Indian regulators, the conference underscored the collaborative effort required to shape the future of spectrum.

Read More: https://www.ituindiaforum.org/ismc2025-overview

**India Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC-2025): Day-2:** The second day of the conference offered a deep dive into critical spectrum management topics, with discussions focusing on the future of 5G and IMT spectrum, satellite communications, and broadband connectivity. Shri Ajit Pal Singh Tuli, Chairman, WPC, Shri Chandrasekhar Mishra (Retired), DCC, DoT, who served as the session chairperson, emphasized the critical need for India to secure its spectrum requirements for upcoming 5G and IMT deployments for WRC agenda in Day-2(agenda item 1.7). Chaired by Shri M.K. Patawari, Joint Wireless Advisor, WPC(NOF), highly anticipated allocation of additional spectrum for IMT, Satellite Services & Broadband Connectivity, the session underscored the need for India to secure its spectrum requirements ahead of WRC, emphasizing spectrum sharing and regulatory unpreparedness. Shri Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Director General, COAI, stated that the upcoming WRC-27 is a critical juncture for India's national policies. Shri Bharat Bhushan, Director, WPC, expressed sincere thanks and gratitude to the distinguished panel for their valuable insights. The session was chaired by Shri Ashish Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on The Ministry of Communications and Shri Ajit Pal Singh, CCP, Director BG Alliance, and the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance (DSA). Special thanks were given to the Chairpersons of the Technical Sessions, Shri Ashish Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Ajit Pal Singh, CCP, and Director General, Alliance, Dynamic Spectrum Alliance of India Name (DSA), and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Leaders ITU, WTM (SAM), Director, TEC, Director, WPC, Director, Alliance, Director, COAI.

**The NGO-A Workshop:** The 7th meeting of the NGO-A was held on 12-13, 2025, in the Spectrum Room, Sanchar Bhawan, DoT, New Delhi. Shri N. K. Bhola, Chairman, NGO-A, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The meeting was chaired by Shri Ashish Chandra, Secretary, MeitY. Contributions to ITU Study Group 5 and its associated Working Parties, and requested stakeholders to submit proposals to NGO-A in a timely manner to allow for robust dimension deliberation before the upcoming meetings. Shri Ajit Pal Singh Tuli, Director, BG Alliance, Dynamic Spectrum Alliance of India, presented the outcomes of the 5th meeting held in Geneva in September 2025 pertained key contributions from India, including the proposal for a new Question on Digital Infrastructure for Smart Grid Regions Kumar, DDG, Standardisation and chairman, NMP-5, reviewed India's recent contributions to ITU-T Study Groups, highlighting the adoption of new Recommendations and Supplements addressing artificial intelligence, 5G, and IoT. Working Indian proposalsmay on the standardisation of digital television systems, Shri Bhupinder Singh, Rapporteur, NSG-5, briefed the group on the progress of Recommendations on digital television systems and sought inputs from the group to align with the evolution of India's terrestrial broadcasting ecosystem. Shri Vishwas Chitnis presented updates on Report ITU-R M.2160, he noted that the on-going IGW (Mobile Multimedia Broadcast) trials in India. The session also covered the status of the Study Group 5 Question on the evolution of IMT-based communications to the global south. Shri Vishwas Chitnis concluded the session by highlighting the upcoming meetings of Study Group 5 and the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA) India remains a proactive participant in shaping international broadcasting standards.

**TRAI Spectrum Discussion Paper (SDP) regarding Auction of Radio Frequency Spectrum:** The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation Paper on the Auction of Radio Frequency Spectrum. The Paper has been prepared by the Authority after a detailed study of the issues and after taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in its letter dated 12.09.2025 and the Telecom Commission's decisions dated 25.09.2025 and 08.10.2025 on the spectrum auction, anticipated in mid-2026. The session was chaired by Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India. The session covered the key issues in the Finance area, the consultation highlights where a unified view was shared by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and the APT, advocating for a drastic reduction in the spectrum reserve price, to ensure affordability and boost sector investment. Shri Ashish Chandra, Secretary, MeitY, stated that India will be a central challenge in spectrum monetization. Regarding the upcoming auction, Shri Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Director General, COAI, stated that the industry is ready for the auction but requires long-term network capacity and global harmonization. It was proposed for deliberating of the lower 5 GHz band (5.150-5.350 GHz) for Wi-Fi 6E/7 and the 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi 6E/7 and 5G applications. Terms & Reference: APT proposed a more flexible payment structure to support participation in spectrum payments, post-measurement, payments should be spread over 10 equal annual installments, with a 2-year moratorium on the first installment. The session underscored the inclusion of 600 MHz band in the upcoming auction, as the device ecosystem for this band is maturing globally.

**APT comments to TRAI on Consultation Paper regarding Interconnection Matters:** The ITU-APT Foundation of India (APT) recently provided comments on the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) Consultation Paper on the Review of Interconnection matters," released on September 12, 2025. The comments, prepared by the APT Foundation of India, underscore the need for a more granular telecom interconnection for over two decades. The proposal of APTFI proposed to modernize the framework to accommodate emerging technologies and ensure fair, transparent, and efficient interconnection across India's diverse telecom ecosystem. Because ITU-APT Foundation of India (APT) is a leading forum for international telecommunications and ICT policy, the organization's input is expected to influence discussions on how India can better service quality and technical efficiency. (b) Satellite Interconnection Framework – major emerging gap in India's regulatory framework. (c) Cross-Sector Collaboration – Telecommunications, Broadcasting, and Transport Telecom Infrastructure Sharing – Recommended partnerships between satellite gateways and terrestrial networks (middlehaul). (d) Implementation Roadmap – Phased approach to implement the proposed framework, ensuring minimal disruption to existing operations while maintaining competitive dynamics. (e) Regarding Legal Rights and Obligations – Clarification of rights and obligations for satellite operators and terrestrial telecom providers. The comments highlighted that delays will occur and suggested stricter monitoring or automated processes to prevent misuse. The comments also highlighted the need for India to actively participate in the International Telecom Charge (ITC), to ensure that crossing International Telecom Charge (ITC) benefits without making Indian operators uncompetitive or encouraging "party mentality". Similarly, similar concerns were raised regarding the Bill and Keep model, with the recommendation to adopt it only if it supported emerging technologies like M2M (Machine to Machine) and IoT connectivity.

**IEEE International Conference on Advanced Networks and Telecommunications Systems:** The ITU-APT Foundation of India (APT) recently participated in the IEEE International Conference on Advanced Networks and Telecommunications Systems (ANTS), held in Delhi, India, under the theme "Smart, Sustainable, and Secure Networks: Enabling Intelligent Connectivity for Bharat and Beyond." The conference brought together academia, industry, and government experts to align research with global policy and standard initiatives. Main aim of the conference was to promote an interior dialogue between academia and industry, to foster collaboration between research institutions and telecom stakeholders, and to support India's digital transformation goals. The conference centered on four major areas: - Wireless Communication Technologies – Advancements in 5G/6G, IoT, and spectrum management. - Network Infrastructure – Smart grids, fiber optics, and enabling 6G interconnectivity; intelligent networks, and integrated sensing and communication systems. - Emerging Technologies – Quantum communication, AI/ML-driven network optimization, and blockchain applications. - Security & Emerging Technologies – Satellite Internet, blockchain/quantum technologies, and Open RAN (O-RAN) paradigm (6) Sustainable – Green communications and energy-efficient network design. The APT Foundation of India (APT) participated in the IEEE ANTS Conference, contributing a presentation on the expert panel discussion titled "Spectrum Management for Emerging Technologies." The session underscored the critical role of spectrum management in India's emerging leadership in the Bharat 6G Alliance and the importance of localized standardization efforts.

**DoT Strategic Orientation Workshop on ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP26):** The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) held a Strategic Orientation Workshop on December 2, 2025, to plan strategic outlines Best Contribution of 2026 Offers for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP26) to be held in Brazil from 9 October to 6 November 2026. The session was chaired by Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Secretary, DoT, Govt. of India. The workshop served as a critical preparatory platform for India's delegation to the upcoming ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP26). The session focused on shaping India's strategic positions for the Plenipotentiary Conference (scheduled for November 2026 in Brazil). Discussions covered the global direction of ICT for the coming years. Primary objectives of the workshop was to finalize India's strategic positions for PP26 and to ensure alignment with the ITU Strategic Plan. Common Proposals that represent India's interests in the Asia Pacific region. The focus areas included:

- Strategic Policy Leadership for the Coming Four Years and Radio Regulations Board (RRB)
- Formulating positions on Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance, 6G development, and satellite communications (5) Promoting India's success stories like Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and 5G/6G rollout as global benchmarks.
- Reviewing the ITU roadmap for 2026-2031 to ensure it aligns with India's national priorities. Approx. 4 significant highlight of the event was India's focus on discussion on "Industry Expectations from the Upcoming ITU Plenipotentiary Conference." The session provided a platform for direct insights on global ICT priorities. The panel emphasized the need for a collaborative approach between the government and private sector to strengthen India's influence at the ITU.

**ITU Regional Forum on Spectrum (RRF):** The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) successfully hosted the inaugural Regional Radiocommunication Seminar (RRS) in Jeju, South Korea, from December 3 to 5, 2025, in a hybrid format at its headquarters in Geneva. Sanctioned. This landmark event, which saw participation from over 300 delegates, including representatives from APT (Asia-Pacific) ASMG (Arab), ATU (Africa), CITEL (Europe), CITEL (Americas), and RCC (Eurasia), to harmonize their positions on the agenda items for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27). The RRS serves as a critical platform for regional working sessions focusing on the technical and regulatory studies required to update the Radio Regulations. The seminar facilitated deep technical discussions on a wide range of modern radio-communication needs, especially (a) Technical sharing studies for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) and other services in shared frequency bands. (b) Updating the existing Band of Direct Connectivity between Satellite Networks and Stations (Space Operation) (Agenda Item 1.15) issues related to Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) and Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) spectrum, including the technical and regulatory conditions for non-geostationary satellites to use FSS earth station antennas, and addressing unauthorized IMT deployments in FSS bands. (c) Spectrum for Emerging Technologies – Studies on spectrum requirements for protection in Radio Quiet Zones (RQZ), and the protection of Earth Exploration Satellite Service (EESS) (passive) from unwanted emissions. The seminar also saw significant participation from Lunar communications in Space Research Service (SRS). Notably, the Asia-Pacific delegations raised in-depth technical inquiries, with India's interests were strongly represented by Shri Bharat Bhushan, Director, Wireless Planning & Coordination (WPC), who chaired the session on Agenda Item 1.15. Shri Bhushan's technical expertise (Qualcomm), who attended the conference physically, while many other members joined virtually. The event marks the official start of the inter-regional dialogue CPM-27, which will now move into the formal phase of the ITU Study Groups. The RRS provides a crucial procedures to WRC-27, scheduled for October 2027 in Shanghai, China, ensuring a unified Asia-Pacific position.

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**NCA 7 Webinar on Blockchain:** National Communications Academy Technology (NCA 7) successfully hosted a webinar on 05/12/2025 on "Blockchain Technology and Its Applications". Main aim of the webinar was to explore the power and potential of Blockchain Technology, understanding its core principles, real-world applications, and how it is transforming industries such as cryptocurrency, smart contracts, and distributed ledgers. Blockchain is more than just the bitcoin chain works, why it is considered highly secure and transparent, and how it is reshaping the future of digital transactions and data management. The webinar was designed for students, faculty, and anyone from non-technical audiences to grasp key concepts. A webinar webinar explained practical applications of blockchain in finance, supply chain management, telecom, healthcare, and government. The session also covered the challenges and opportunities in India's current global and rollout, key government initiatives, and the future outlook and the role of blockchain in India's digital ecosystem.

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

1. The 5th International Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC 25), organized by ITU-APT Foundation of India (APT), took place on December 15-16, 2025, at The Claridges, New Delhi. It brought together over 500 delegates, including senior officials from the telecommunications ministries and regulatory bodies across the Asia-Pacific region, alongside global stakeholders. The event was attended by over 100 national and international experts representing government bodies, academia, and the private sector, collaborating on the future of spectrum policy and management. The event serves as a vital preparation for WRC27. The roadmap for 5G and IMT Spectrum, Satellite Communication and Broadband Connectivity, Spectrum Sharing and Coexistence, and Spectrum Management for Emerging Technologies. The Inaugural Session featured a distinguished panel of guests, including Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India; Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi (Retd), CEO and Chairman, COAI Board; Mr. Neeraj Mittal, Member, Director, BK, IPR, and Charles Cooper, Associate Administrator, NTIA, USA. In his keynote address, Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti emphasized the critical role of spectrum as a national asset and the need for a robust, forward-looking coverage to derive maximum socio-economic benefits for citizens and the nation.
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## Links to our Activities & Partners

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| 1.) The Inter-Ministry Meeting of Union, Who Secretary Shri S. Krishnamurthy of India, Inter-Ministry Meeting Chairman to Discuss Preparing of the Lowest 5.15 GHz Band Allocation to Unlicensed and Digital Platform | |
| 2.) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Regions, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Formal Endorsement of the NGO- NGES WRC Band to Support Innovation and Make in India | |
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| 5.) Letter to The Joint Secretary (Telecom) Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India for WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.15 Regarding Protection of the Radio Quiet Zone (RQZ) Regarding Lunar Communications Services | |
| 6.) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Regions, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Support Inclusion of Lower Band Allocation to Unlicensed Use in the Upcoming WRC-27 | |
| 7.) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Regions, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Support Inclusion of Lower Band Allocation to Unlicensed Use in the Upcoming WRC-27 | |
| 8.) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Regions, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Support Inclusion of Lower Band Allocation to Unlicensed Use in the Upcoming WRC-27 | |
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| 20.) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Regions, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Support Inclusion of Lower Band Allocation to Unlicensed Use in the Upcoming WRC-27 | |
| 21.) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Regions, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Support Inclusion of Lower Band Allocation to Unlicensed Use in the Upcoming WRC-27 | |
| 22.) Letter to Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Power Response for Implementing Green Open Access Rules, Shri Pankaj Agrawal, IAS | |
| 23.) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman CDC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Gateway Under MTCTE | |
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## IAFI MEMBERSHIP


The Indian Association of Frequency Management (IAFI) is a non-profit, non-political, non-religious Foundation registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, IAFI has been working for the benefit of its members, which are Telecom Service Providers, Equipment Manufacturers, Broadcasters, Defence, public/private sector industries, R&D organizations, academic institutions, and such other agencies/ companies, which are directly or indirectly connected with the Spectrum Management. The Ordinary members can be all Indian nationals or OIC nationals having a Indian Passport. The Associate