



February highlights

Monthly News Summary



Dear Respected Member,

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

National Workshop on Learning from WRC-23 and the way forward: ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) hosted a comprehensive 'National Workshop on Learnings from WRC-23 and the way forward. Planning for WRC-27 and forthcoming ITU and APT meetings' on 22-23 February 2024 at Hotel Hyatt Centric, MG Road, Bangalore. The day long workshop commenced with a welcome address by Shri Bharat Bhatia, President. Shri Gulab Chand, Joint Wireless Advisor, WRC, DoT, expressed his appreciation for the consistent efforts put in by IAFI in organising seminars that provide a platform for discussions that has now put India on the global map. Detailed insights on WRC-23 IMT services were provided by Dr. Punit Rathod of Qualcomm along with a panel including Dr Sanku Kumar Devar, Director, Standards and Spectrum, Ericsson, Shri Ashwani Kumar, Head of Spectrum and 6G Engagement, Nokia; Dr Punit Rathod, Shri Vinay Shrivastava, General Manager, Reliance Jio and Shri Diwakar Sharma, Sr. Chief Engineer, Samsung India. Session on WRC-23 outcomes relating to the satellite services, was chaired by Shri Munesh Kumar, Joint Wireless Advisor, DoT featuring insights from Mr. Basbir Patel of Inmarsat, Dr. Hanumantha Rayappa of ISRO, Ms. Sonal Nanda of InSpace and Mr. Cristian Gomez of Viastar.

Session on preparations for WRC-27 was chaired by Shri Bharat Bhatia with Dr. Sanku Kumar Devar, I of Ericsson, D.C. Punit Rathod of Qualcomm, Ms. Marta Donate Fuente of Eutelsat and OneWeb, Ms. J Sofi Jebasoundaram of ISRO HQ and Mr Udriwof Pica of SpaceX. Key issues on WRC-27 Agenda were highlighted including agenda item 1.7, 1.13 and many more. The concluding session of the workshop was chaired by Shri Vikram Tiwathia, Deputy Director General of COAI and dealt with India's participation in future spectrum studies in ITU and APT meetings. The participants included Shri N K Bholia, Joint Wireless Advisor, WPC, DOT, Shri Jishnu Aravindakshan of Tejas Networks Shri R Prakash, Scientist, CDOIT, Shri Diwakar Sharma of Samsung India, Dr. Sanku Kumar Devar representing SGIF and Shri Ashwani Kumar from Nokia.

IAFI Radio Group preparatory meeting for upcoming AWG-32 meeting at Pattaya, Bangkok: The IAFI Radio Group, in collaboration with its industry partners, convened a meeting to finalize contributions for the upcoming AWG-32 meeting expected to take place in Pattaya, Bangkok, from March 4th to 8th. Following thorough discussions, 6 key issues were identified for further study and development of IAFI's contribution for WRC-23 and relevant contributions have been finalized.

45th Meeting of ITU-R WP-5D at Geneva, Switzerland: The 45th meeting of ITU-R Working Party 5D commenced on 31-01-2024 to 02-02-2024, IAFI presented five contributions. Details of the discussions held on five IAFI contributions are as follows: 1. Regarding C-5: IAFI presented this contribution during the WP-5D plenary meeting, a 'Proposals for structure and working process of Working Party 5D towards RA-27 and WRC27' and many countries also shared their perspectives on this vital matter. Recognizing the gravity of the issue, a dedicated session of the AH WP-5D Plenary was convened to deliberate all submissions. Following thorough discussions, it was collectively agreed to maintain the current configuration of WP-5D, as the establishment of additional working groups could potentially escalate financial responsibilities for the ITU.

2. Regarding C-58: IAFI presented this contribution in the SWG IMT-MSS meeting, addressing 'Proposed frequency arrangements under WRC-27 agenda item 1.13' and comprehensive discussion was held on the various issues involved in the Agenda item 1.13. Many members expressed diverse/contrasting views, so consensus could not be reached. Issue will be further deliberated in the next meeting of the SWG IMT-MSS on 05-02-2024, exploring all perspectives and to arrive at a well- consensus decision.

3. Regarding C-59: IAFI presented the contribution in the SWG WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.7 meeting, regarding liaison statement on Agenda Item 1.7. Meeting unanimously agreed to send the liaison statement to all the relevant working parties.

4. Regarding C-60: IAFI presented the contribution in SWG Radio Aspect, addressing 'Considerations on preliminary draft new Report ITU-R M.1027-2 (12/2023)'. IAFI suggested some changes in the proposed PDNR and after incorporating the changes, report should be elevated to DNR. Following a thorough discussion, IAFI's suggestions received unanimous acceptance, with the suggested amendments being seamlessly incorporated into the report.

5. Regarding C-61: IAFI presented the contribution in SWG Specific Applications, regarding 'Proposal for a new ITU-R Report on IMT application for financial inclusion'. After a comprehensive discussion, it was unanimously agreed upon that before creating a new ITU-R report, the recently released ITU-R Report M.2527, addressing applications of the terrestrial component of International Mobile Telecommunications for specific societal, industrial, and other usages, could be revised and updated. IAFI committed to preparing the revised draft report for submission at the next WP-5D meeting, tentatively scheduled for the end of June 2024.

Highlights of the concluding week of 45th WP-5D meeting: During the second week of the WP-5D meeting from 05-02-2024 to 07-02-2024, IAFI presented two contributions regarding 'unwanted emission' on 05-02-2024. Outcomes of the discussions held on two IAFI contributions are as follows:

1. IAFI contribution on 'Un-wanted emission characteristics of base stations using the terrestrial radio interface of IMT-2020', was presented at the first meeting of the SWG Unwanted Emission (SUWEM) on preliminary draft new Recommendation ITU-R M.1027-2 (12/2023). IAFI suggested some changes in the proposed PDNR and after incorporating the changes, report should be elevated to DNR. Following a thorough discussion, IAFI's suggestions received unanimous acceptance, with the suggested amendments being seamlessly incorporated into the report.

2. IAFI contribution on 'Un-wanted emission characteristics of mobile stations using the terrestrial radio interface of IMT-2020', was presented at the first meeting of the SWG Unwanted Emission (SUWEM) on preliminary draft new Recommendation ITU-R M.1027-2 (12/2023). IAFI suggested some changes in the proposed PDNR and after incorporating the changes, report should be elevated to DNR. Following a thorough discussion, IAFI's suggestions received unanimous acceptance, with the suggested amendments being seamlessly incorporated into the report.

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India Satcom Symposium 2024: The inaugural edition of the India Satcom Symposium 2024, a single day conference, was organised by ET Satcom on 31-01-2024, witnessed good participation from top industry executives worldwide as well as regulatory and government officials from the Indian National Space Organisation and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRA), New Space India Limited (NSIL), and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The event was addressed by Shri. Ashwini Vashiraw, Hon'ble MOC and Shri. Doushath Chauhan, Hon'ble MOS (C). In his opening address, Hon'ble MOC emphasized India's ambitious vision of leveraging satellite communication to deliver broadband services to underserved regions reaching remote villages in the Northeast, Himalayas, forests, and islands. The government encourages collaboration between satellite service providers like Eutelsat, OneWeb, Reliance Jio, Starlink, Amazon, Telesat, and Tata Group. This strategic move aligns seamlessly with India's Space Policy 2023, allowing private LEO and MEO satellite operators to offer broadband-from-space services.

Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI participated in the conference remotely from Geneva, highlighting the pivotal role of Satcom in achieving ubiquitous connectivity and addressing spectrum allocations alongside other pertinent challenges. Shri Bhatia also informed the participants regarding the discussion held at WRC-23, recently held at Dubai. Participants were also briefed on a significant decision taken during WRC-23 concerning the allocation of the upper part of 6 GHz band (6425-7125 MHz) for IMT (5G/6G) usage in Region-1, particularly in the Middle East, Africa, and India may commence using after WRC-27, till time satellite systems should relocate to other bands. Similarly, the compatibility between GSO and Non-GSO satellite systems, a controversial agenda, regarding revision of the limit of transmitting power by Non-GSO satellites, was also discussed in detail. Shri Bhatia also informed the participants regarding the increasing role of the Regional Groups impacting WRC decisions as a good trend.

The 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA 24-2): The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organized a Virtual Meeting, as the 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-2) from 05 to 06 February 2024. The APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 consists of three Working Groups (WGs) that are responsible for the regional preparation on the issues related to WTSA-24. Details are as follows. 1. Working Group 1 (WG1): ITU-T Working Methods. 2. Working Group 2 (WG2): ITU-T Working Organization. 3. Working Group 3 (WG3): Regulatory/Policy and Standardization Related Issues.

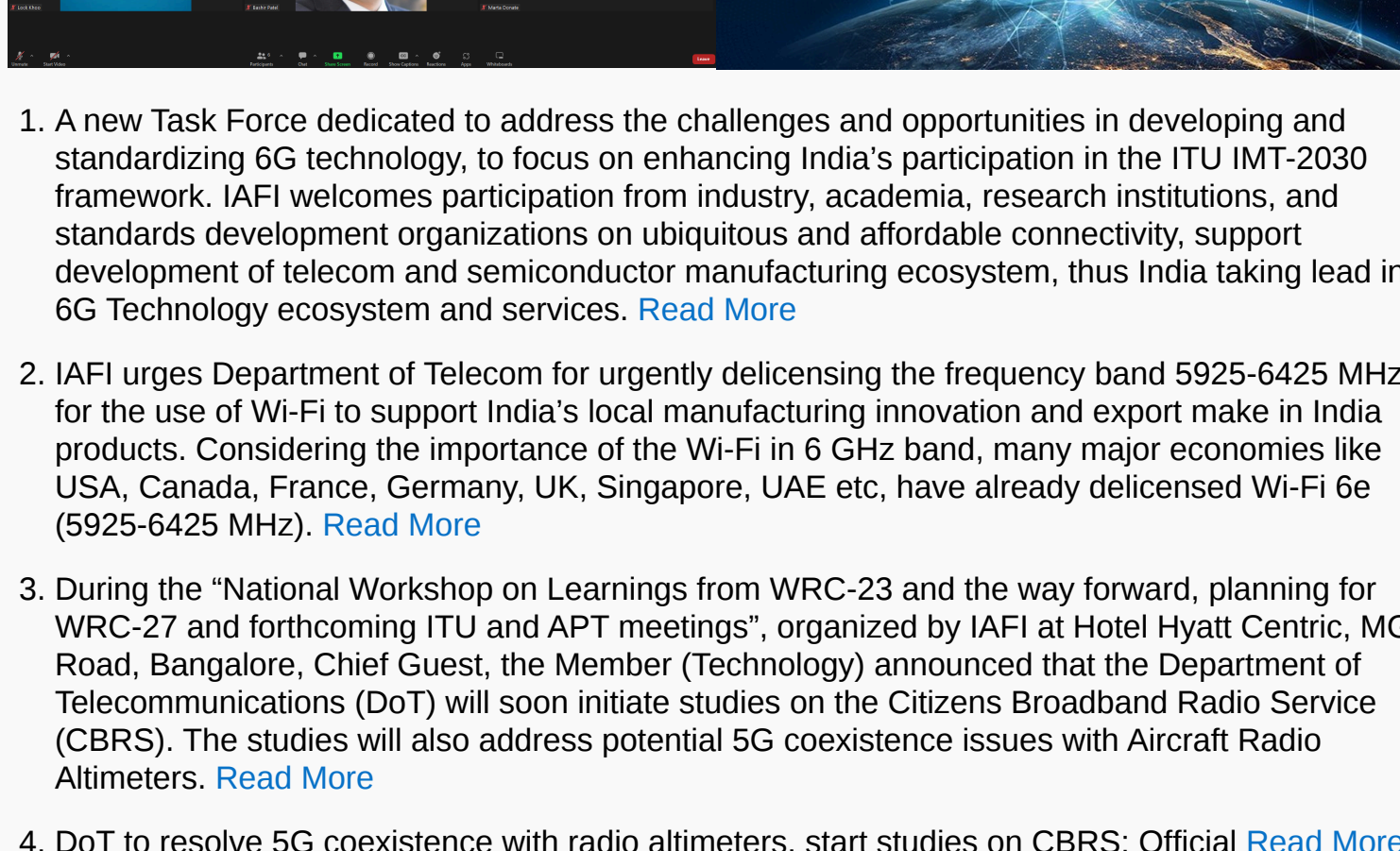
The objective of APT WTSA24-2 virtual meeting was to facilitate open discussion among APT members to identify key issues relevant to APT regions for consideration in the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 (WTSA-24), which will take place in New Delhi, India from 15 to 24 October 2024. Out of total 57 Input Documents discussed during the meeting, 30 documents were submitted by India and IAFI together, as contributions from India, 27 contributions on existing WTSA-20 Resolutions and proposed 3 new Resolutions. Out of 30 contributions, 22 were presented by India and 8 by IAFI in the meeting. Four contributions The meeting reviewed all the input documents and received comments from the delegates. The Meeting's main purpose was brainstorming and identifying possible PACP topics, to be finalized for submission to WTSA-24 on behalf of APT. The meeting didn't make any decision on candidate PACP. The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-3) is likely to be held during April / May 2024 (for 3 days) at Cambodia.

Letter to Secretary, DoT for assignment of spectrum to new VSAT and Satellite operators: Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a letter dated 09-02-2024, to Chairman DCC & Secretary, DoT requested that for all application for assignment of satellite spectrum under VSAT and other similar service authorizations under Unified Licence should be processed immediately under the existing guidelines, in order to avoid any potential delays in the launch of services by new VSAT and other satellite operators. In the letter, IAFI expressed its gratitude to DoT for the comprehensive Satellite Communications Reforms in 2022, the Indian Space Policy of 2023, complementing the vision of the Hon'ble Minister, opening of new avenues for India's digital economy through space communications, allowing private SatCom players to offer commercial services and the latest Indian Telecommunications, Act, 2023.

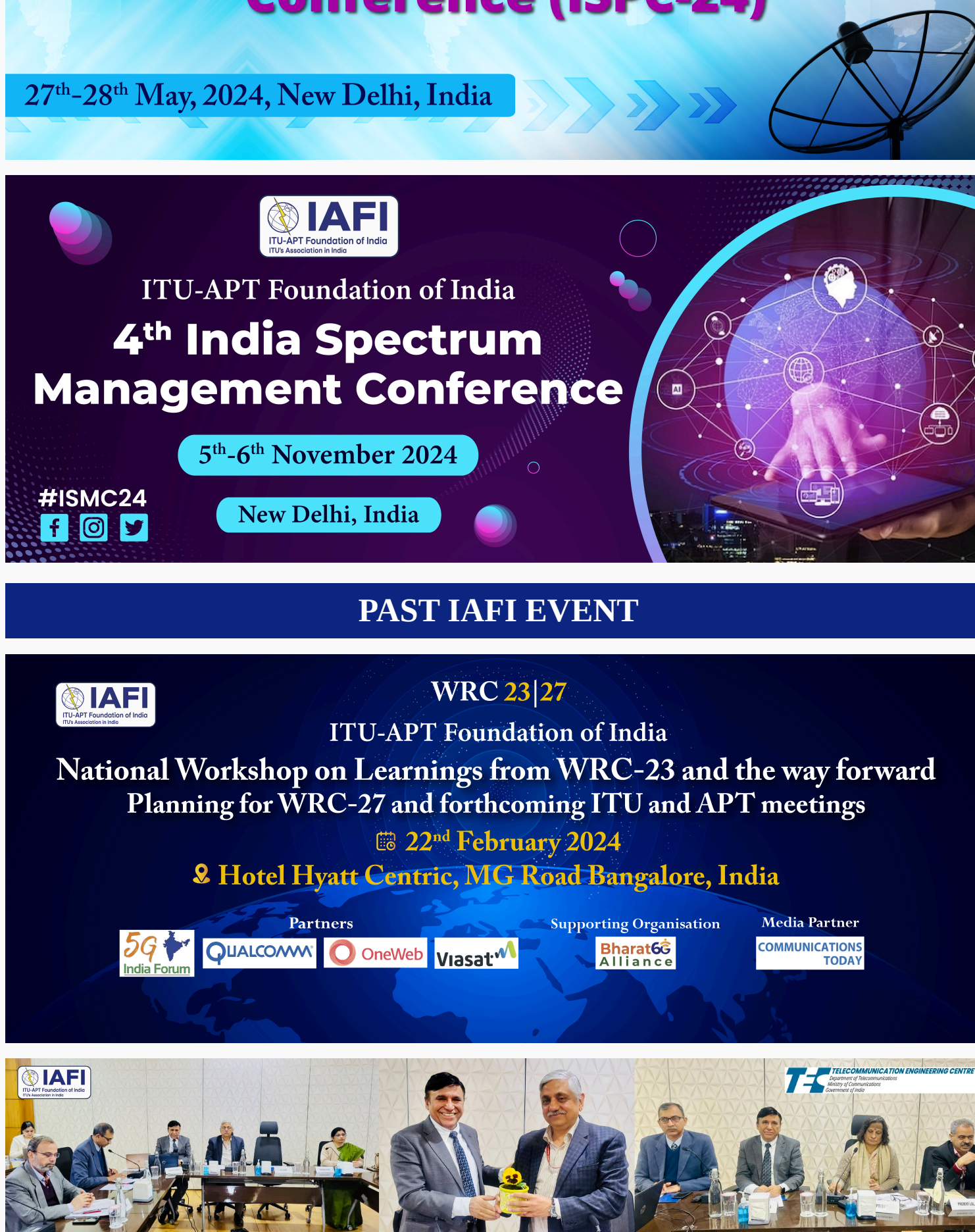
IAFI emphasized that over the past two decades, the government has been assigning satellite spectrum to VSAT and other satellite players administratively. IAFI urged that to prevent any potential delays in the launch of services by new VSAT and other satellite operators, any application for assignment of satellite spectrum under VSAT and other similar service authorizations under Unified Licence, should be processed immediately under the existing guidelines and in case any new rules are issued, it will be equally applicable to operators in the domain.

Letter to Secretary, DoT regarding rationalization of Spectrum Usage Charges pertaining to Satellite Communications: Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a letter dated 05-02-2024, to Chairman DCC & Secretary DoT emphasized the critical importance, to streamline the regulatory levies and minimized levy, to catalyse the robust growth of this industry. Recognizing the pressing need of the hour, Shri Bhatia urged for concerted efforts to minimize these levies, thereby fostering an environment conducive to sustained progress and innovation in the Satcom industry. In the letter to Secretary, DoT, IAFI pointed to significant issue concerning the disparity in Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) for Satcom players has been pointed out. While BSNL's services incur a modest 1% SUC of AGR as per the WPC order of 2021, the Commercial VSAT CUG are subjected to 40% of AGR according to WPC orders of 2003. In addition, for VSAT satellite-based services under the NLD authorization, Royalty Charges are determined using a formula-based charging mechanism under the 2012 WPC order, showing complexities in the regulatory landscape that necessitate prompt attention and resolution. It was also pointed out that TRAI in many recommendations since 2005, 2017, 2020, and 2023 consistently advocated for a 1% SUC of AGR for satellite services, while both Commercial VSAT CUG and NLD services and based on TRAI recommendations of 2018, the WPC has already specified a 1% AGR rate for GSO on BSNL's GSPS services. Other Satcom operators are using the same satellite spectrum, so there is no reason to as why the same 1% SUC cannot be implemented in VSAT, NLD and SMCs. Thus, in order to mitigate the existing disparities, IAFI formally requested the DoT and WPC for uniform application of Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) at a rate of 1% across all service authorizations by aligning with TRAI's recommendations, to establish a fair and equitable framework.

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



- 1. 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 under ubiquitous and affordable connectivity, support development of telecom and semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, thus India taking lead in 6G Technology ecosystem and services. Read More
2. IAFI urges Department of Telecom for urgently delicensing the frequency band 5925-6425 MHz for the use of Wi-Fi 6E in India's local manufacturing innovation and export make in India products. Considering the importance of the Wi-Fi 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
3. 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, 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
4. DoT to resolve 5G coexistence with radio altimeters, start studies on CBRS: Official Read More
5. 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 licence. 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
6. 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 impact on security, reliability, and speed, underscoring its crucial role in promoting financial inclusion and driving economic growth. Read More
7. 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 licences. The request aims to prevent any delays in the launch of services by new VSAT and other satellite operators, emphasizing the importance of adherence to existing guidelines. Read More
8. The first national preparatory workshop for the World Telecommunication Standardization 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 of WTSA, review of existing resolutions, and proposals for new resolutions in the field of telecommunication standardization. Read More
9. The World Radio communication Conference (WRC) has globally allocated 100 MHz spectrum in the 6 GHz band for mobility services, and the upper 6 GHz band has been designated for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. In India, telecom operators are advocating for the 6 GHz band to be reserved entirely for IMT, asserting its significance in achieving national connectivity goals and fulfilling future spectrum requirements for 5G and 6G technologies. Read More
10. WRC-23 commenced on November 20 in Dubai, with major technical work divided into three committees (4, 5, and 6) by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Bharat Bhatia, the President of IAFI, was appointed as the Vice Chairperson for Committee-4, which focuses on examining the frequency band 4,800-4,990 MHz and safeguarding studies of aeronautical and maritime mobile services. India also supported a new agenda item for studies to support communications on the moon and moon missions. Read More



Links to our Activities & Programmes

- 1) 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 it India
2) Letter to Secretary, DoT & Chairman DCC Rationalization of Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) pertaining to Satellite Communications
3) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
4) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Suggestions for formulation of a new Policy for Spectrum Swapping
5) Letter to Minister of External Affairs on Delicensing of 6GHz band
6) Letter to Secretary DoT on Important issues awaiting solution in the telecom sector
7) Letter to DDG TEC for Nomination to join the member of TSAC
8) Letter to MOC on Policy for 5G Network for Industries
9) 44th Working Party 5D Summary
10) IAFI Comments on In-Space Draft guidelines for implementation of the Indian Space Policy 2023
11) Request for amendment of NFAP-2022/IND 16 for removal of frequency band 27-50 + 28-50 GHz for the use of IMT3G on primary basis

IAFI MEMBERSHIP

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is a non-profit, 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 25 and individual members are 123 making a total of 158 members. The EC also emphasized on the Creation of a new member category for academia and a campaign to register Eminent educational institutions as members. 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 details

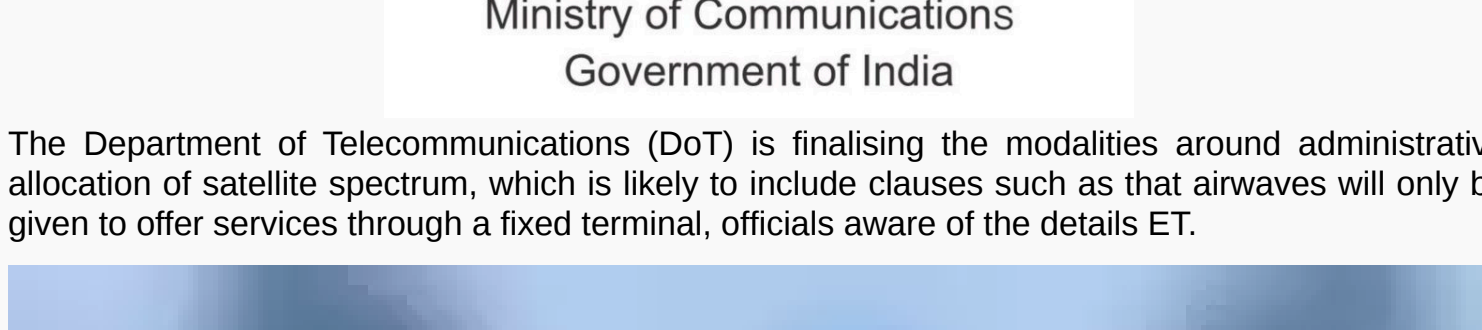


Activities in our focus areas during November 2023



IAFI circulated the meeting invitation to members for World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) which will take place in New Delhi, India, from 15 to 24 October 2024, preceded by the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-24) on 14 October 2024 and have asked interested participants to register for the meeting. The circular provides information related to WTSA-24 including the meeting website, video conference and assembly details and functions of the Assembly, conditions for invitation and admission, draft structure of the Assembly, items for consideration by the Plenary Meeting, information on Contributions, document distribution, proceedings of WTSA-24, Inquiry to former collaborators on ITU-T activities, side events, hotels and pre-conference information, participant registration for WTSA-24/GSS-24, and follow-up steps.

IAFI circulated meeting invitation to members for 1st Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for World Radio communication Conference 2024 (APC24-1) which will be from 3 to 6 June 2024 in Shanghai, People's Republic of China with physical attendance as well as virtual/online participation through Zoom meeting (i.e. hybrid meeting). The meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), People's Republic of China.



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is finalising the modalities around administrative allocation of satellite spectrum, which is likely to include clauses such as that airwaves will only be given to offer services through a fixed term, officials aware of details E.T.



Trail on Friday recommended that Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) Supplementary Service be introduced in telecom network and that the service involving (SNAP) caller names on phones be offered by all telcos to subscribers on request – a move that is expected to curb spam.

The government has issued instructions for making CNAP feature available in all devices sold in India after a suitable cut-off date, once recommendations are accepted, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said.