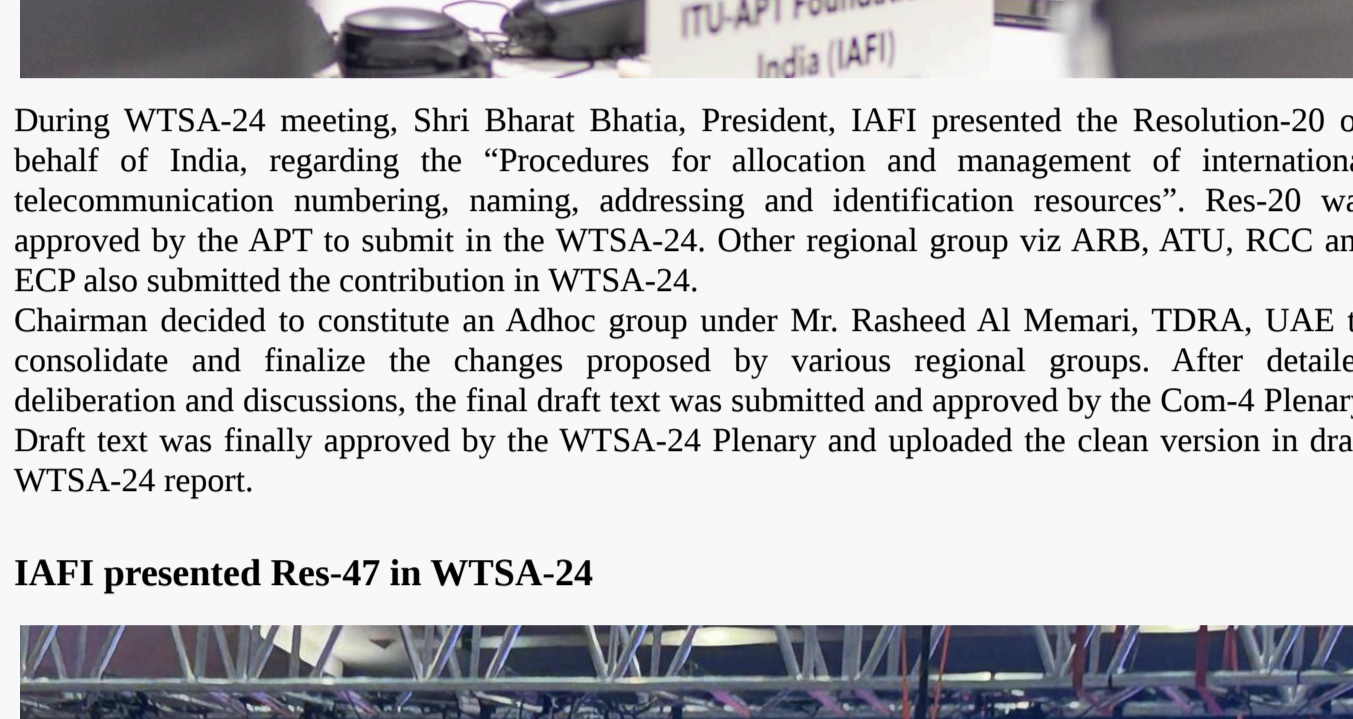### International Conference of Telecom Regulaters

On 16th Oct, 2024, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) organized a one-day International Conference of Telecom Regulators in Hall-5, alongside ITU's World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA-24) and India Mobile Congress (IMC-24). The Conference titled, "Emerging Trends in Regulation" provided a valuable platform to deliberate on topics of prime importance such as Regulatory Perspective in Standardization, Framework for Non-Terrestrial Networks, and Regulatory Outlook for OTT Communication services.

Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI was the distinguished speaker on the session panels regarding "Regulatory Aspects of Satellite Communication, including other Non-Terrestrial Networks". Prominent speakers invited were Chief Regulator, CBSA, Vice-President Satellite Policy, SpaceX, RAS, Bangalore, Amazon and Commissioner, FTI, Mexico.

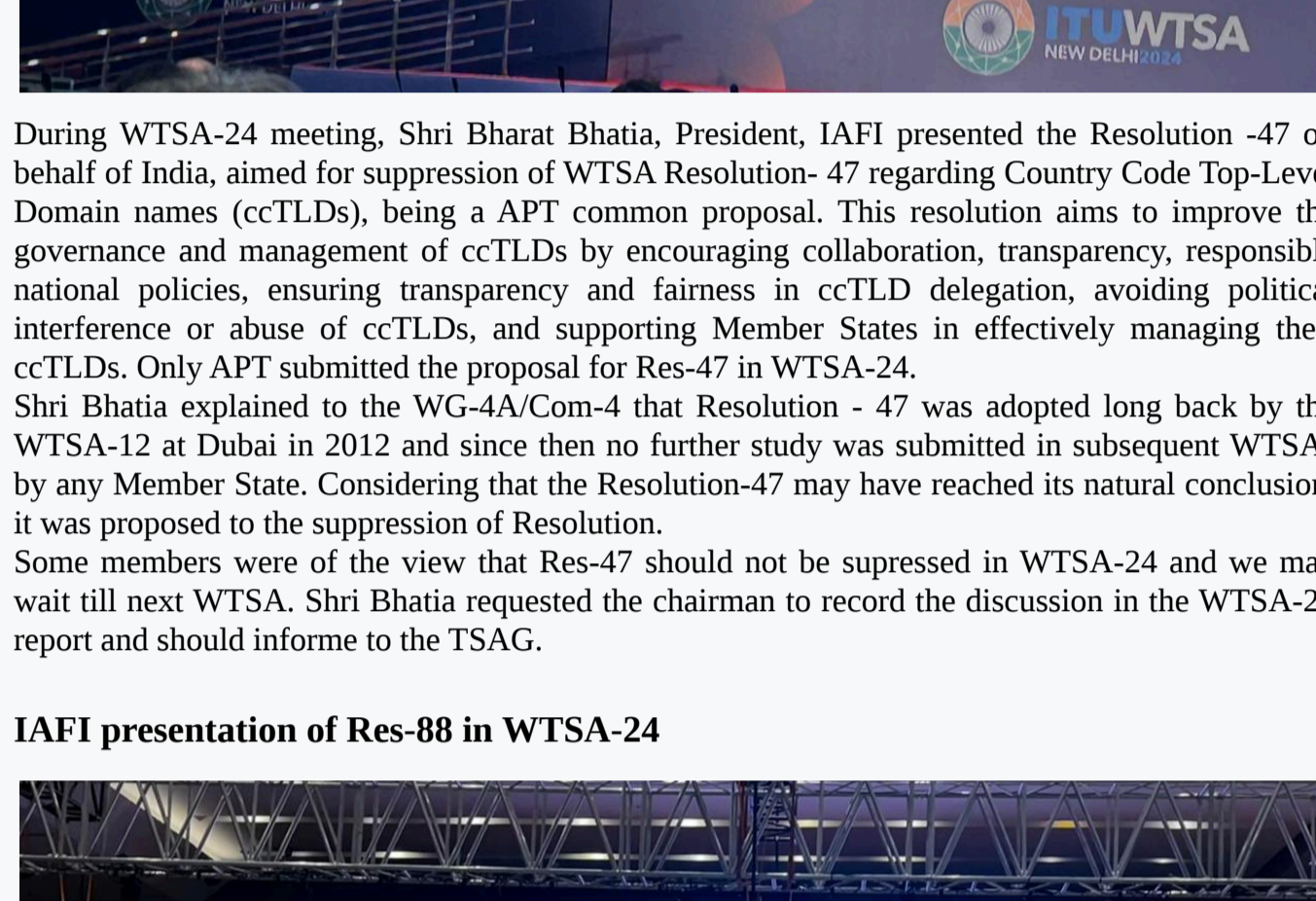### NTIPRIT Workshop during WTSA-24

National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT), Ghaziabad, under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), conducted a workshop on "Bringing together academicians from 5G Use-case Labs", at IMC-24 on 16-10-2024. The event was hosted at Prithvi Hall, Hall No.5, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Dr. Neeraj Mittal, IAS, Secretary DoT inaugurated the workshop. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI was invited as a distinguished guest speaker, for sharing insights on innovation opportunities and India's participation in global standards. Shri Bhatia emphasized the potential of 6G to shape global standards and actively participated in a panel discussion on the topic.

IAFI presented Res-20 in WTSA-24

During WTSA-24 meeting, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI presented the Resolution-20 on behalf of India, regarding the "Procedures for allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources". Res-20 was approved by the APT to update to make it compatible with the latest versions. ITU APT, ITU, RCC and ECP also submitted the contribution in WTSA-24.

Chairman decided to continue as Adhoc group under Mr. Rasheed Al Momari, TDRA, UAE to consolidate and finalize the changes proposed by various regional groups. After detailed deliberation and discussions, the final draft text was submitted and approved by the Com-4 Plenary. The draft text was finally approved by the WTSA-24 Plenary and uploaded the clean version in draft WTSA-24 report.
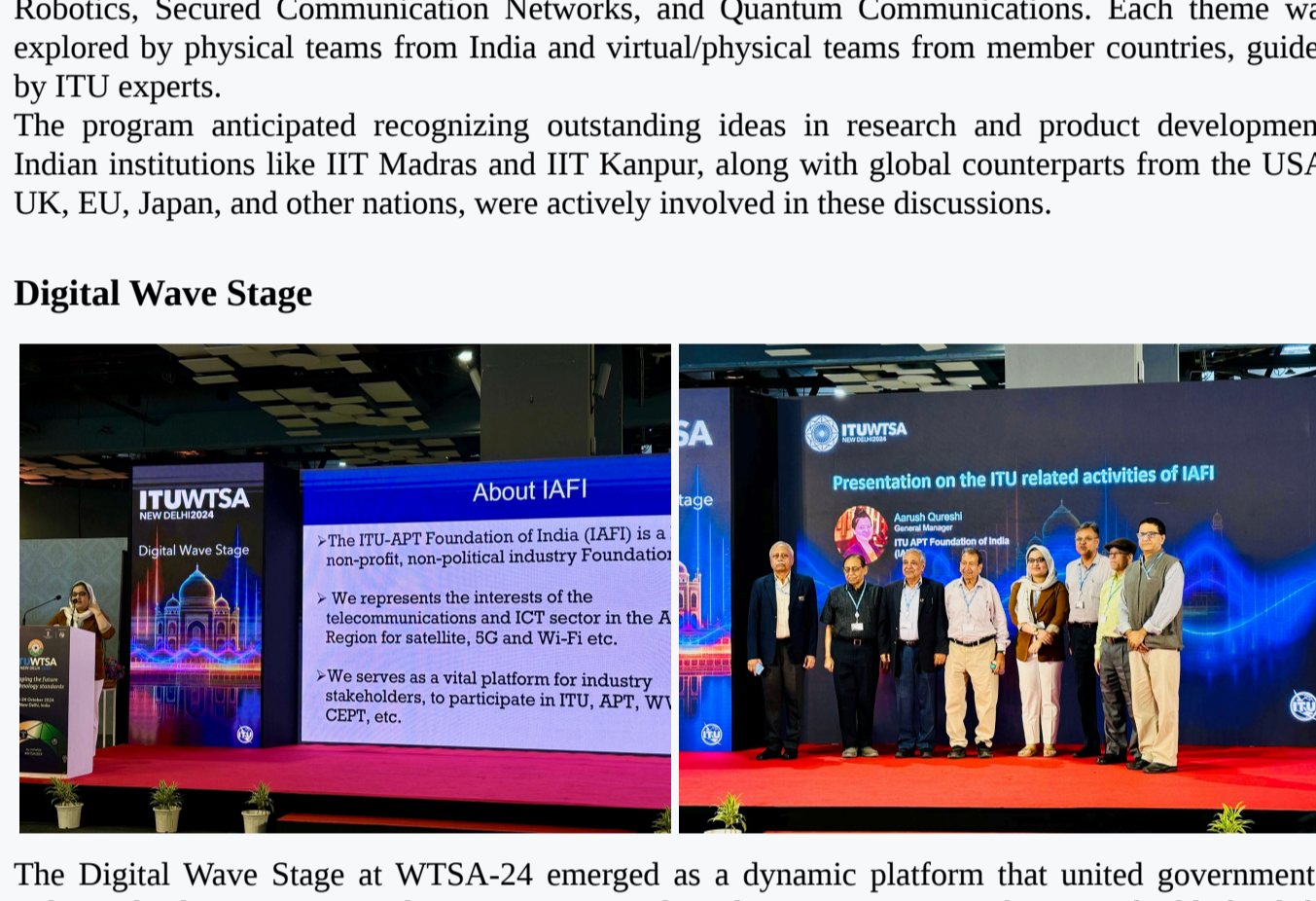
IAFI presented Res-47 in WTSA-24

During WTSA-24 meeting, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI presented the Resolution -47 on behalf of India, aimed for suppression of WTSA Resolution- 47 regarding Country Code Top-Level Domain names (ccTLDs), being a APT common proposal. This resolution aims to improve the cooperation and understanding of ccTLDs management. The resolution emphasizes the transparency, responsible national policies, ensuring transparency and fairness in ccTLD delegation, avoiding political interference or abuse of ccTLDs, and supporting Member States in effectively managing their ccTLDs. IAFI submitted this Resolution in WTSA-24.

Shri Bhatia explained in the WG-4/Com-4 that Resolution - 47 was adopted long back by the WTSA-12 at Dubai in 2012 and since then no further study was submitted to subsequent WTSAs by any Member State. Considering that Resolution 47 may have reached its natural conclusion, it was proposed to the suppression of Resolution.

Some members were of the view that Res-47 should not be supressed in WTSA-24 and we may wait till next WTSA. Shri Bhatia requested the chairman to record the discussion in the WTSA-24 report and should informe to the TSAG.

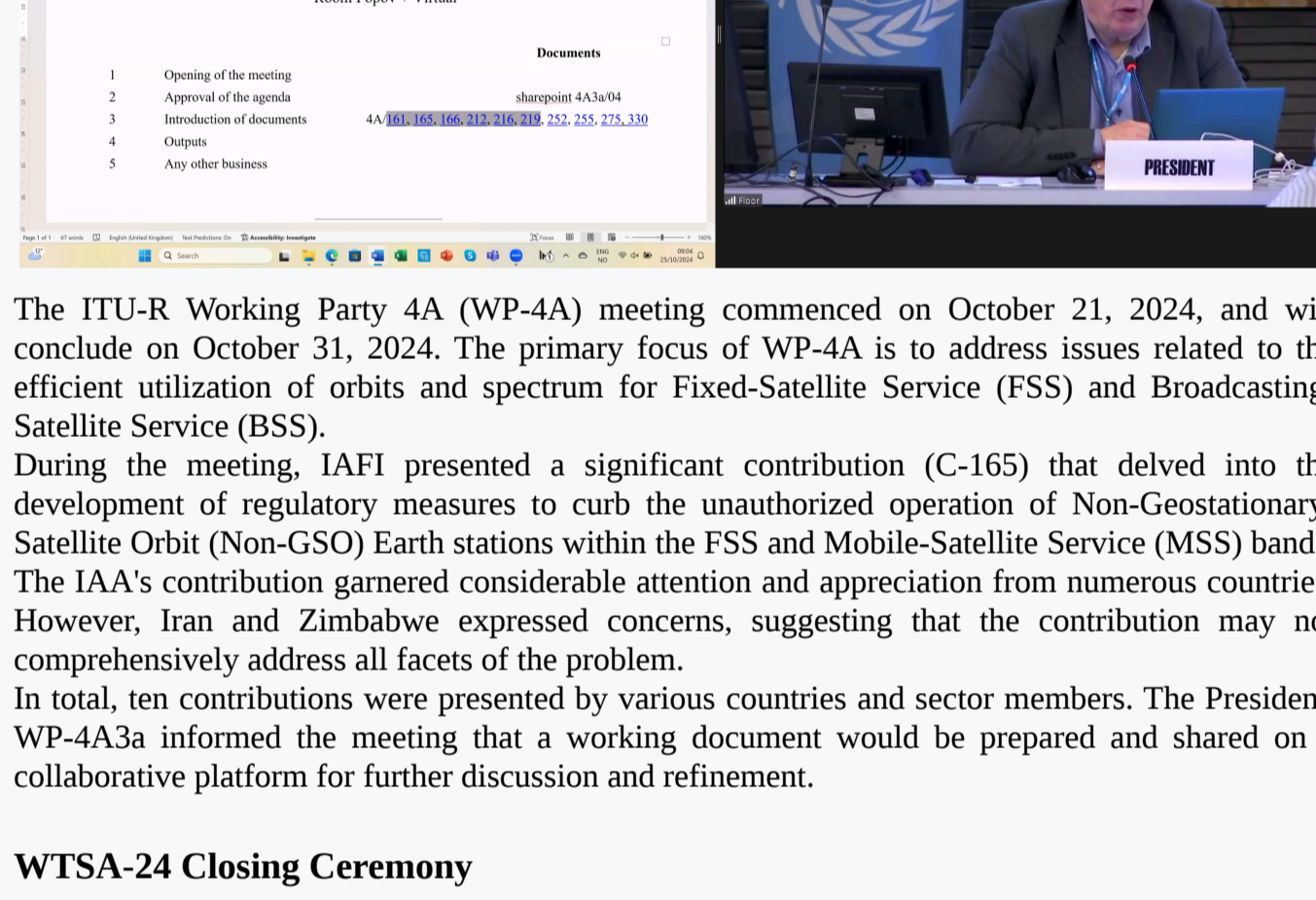### IAFI presentation of Res-88 in WTSA-24

During the WTSA-24 meeting, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI presented Resolution 88 on behalf of India. This resolution focused on International Mobile Roaming. In addition, the African Telecommunication Union (ATU) submitted a related contribution.

To finalize the text of the resolution, the Chair of Working Group 4A established an ad-hoc group led by Mr. Ahmed Said of Egypt. This group met twice to discuss and refine the text, which was subsequently approved by WG-4A, Commission 4, and the WTSA-24 Plenary. The final, clean version of the resolution was uploaded to the draft WTSA-24 report.

Innovaioon Xchange

The Innovation Xchange program, held during WTSA-24, aimed to foster international collaboration and innovation in key emerging technologies. This hybrid event, combining physical and virtual participation, facilitated the exchange of ideas and expertise on a global scale.

The 14-hour event was organized into five thematic areas: Next-Gen Networks (5G/6G), AI, IoT & Robotics, Secured Communication Networks, and Quantum Communications. Each theme was explored by physical teams from India and virtual/physical teams from member countries, guided by ITU Focal Point.

The program anticipated recognizing outstanding ideas in research and product development. Indian institutions like IIT Madras and IIT Kanpur, along with global counterparts from the USA, UK, EU, Japan, and other nations, were actively involved in these discussions.
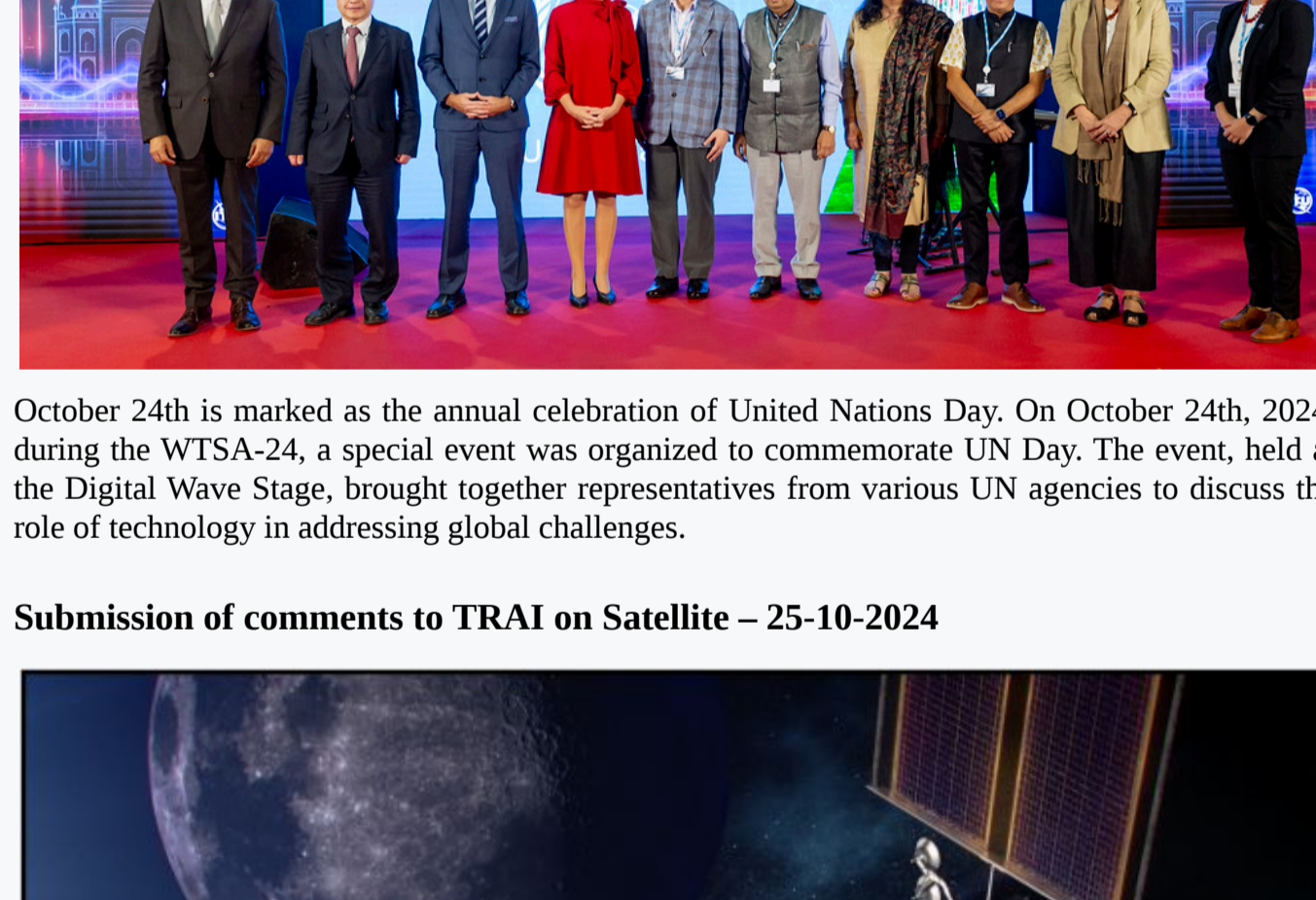
Digital Wave Stage

The Digital Wave Stage at WTSA-24 emerged as a dynamic platform that united governments, industry leaders, international organizations, and academic institutions. This stage highlighted the pivotal role of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in propelling cutting-edge technologies. Open to ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academic Institutions, and individuals from ITU member countries, the Digital Wave Stage provided a forum for knowledge sharing and collaboration.

On October 22, 2024, Ms. Aarushi Qureshi, General Manager, IAFI presented a comprehensive overview of the IAFI's activities over the past few years. The presentation emphasized the IAFI's significant contributions to all three sectors of the ITU, particularly in the realm of spectrum management. The IAFI has submitted over 100 contributions to the ITU's work, demonstrating its commitment to advancing international cooperation in telecommunications.
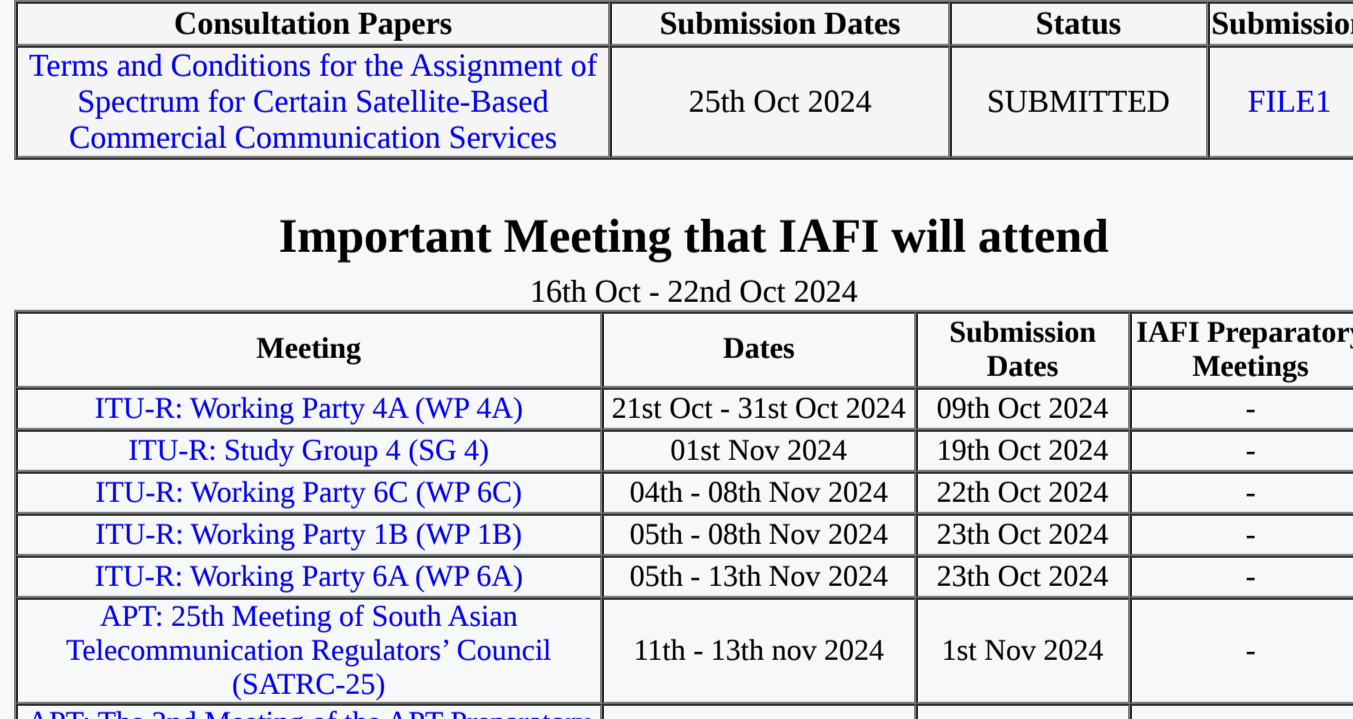
Meeting of the WP-4A of ITU-R

The ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP-4A) meeting commenced on October 21, 2024, and will conclude on October 31, 2024. The primary focus of WP-4A is to address issues related to the efficient utilization of orbits and spectrum for Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS) and Broadcasting-Satellite Service (BSS).

During the meeting, IAFI presented a significant contribution (C-165) that delved into the development of regulatory measures to curb the unauthorized operation of Non-Geostationary-Satellite Orbit (Non-GSO) earth stations within the FSS and Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) bands. The IAA's contribution garnered considerable attention and appreciation from numerous countries. However, Iran and Zimbabwe expressed concerns, suggesting that the contribution may not comprehensively address all facets of the problem.

In total, ten contributions were presented by various countries and sector members. The President, IAFI actively informed the meeting that a working document would be prepared and shared on a collaborative platform for further discussion and refinement.

WTSA-24 Closing Ceremony

India played a pivotal role in shaping the future of global telecommunications at the ITU-WTSA 2024, which concluded on October 24th, 2024. Through its active engagement, India successfully proposed groundbreaking resolutions and contributed to the modification of existing ones, garnering widespread support from member nations. The ten-day WTSA witnessed a historic turnout of 3,700 delegates from over 160 countries, marking the highest participation ever for a WTSA assembly outside Geneva. The event also celebrated unprecedented female participation, advancing gender equity in the global telecommunications industry. Various high-level events including over 15 high-level side events were organized alongside the WTSA.

The closing ceremony was attended by Dr. Seizo Onoe, Director, Telecommunication Standardisation, M. Scindia, Hon'ble Minister of Communications & Development of North Eastern Region, Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, ITU Secretary-General, Dr. Pramanand Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (T), DoT, Ms. Seizo Onoe TSB Director, ITU, Shri B R Mittal, WTSA-24 Chair, and Mr. Bilel Jamoussi, WTSA-24 Secretary.

In her address, Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, ITU Secretary-General, invoked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's words, stating, "Let us keep the Honorable Prime Minister Modi's words in mind as we transform WTSA outcomes into action, by keeping the principles of security, dignity, and equity at the center of our efforts."

Speaking at the event, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, said, "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has showcased its commitment to global leadership through strategic partnerships, groundbreaking research, and innovation-driven development, reaffirming its position at the forefront of the digital revolution."

In his address, Hon'ble Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia highlighted India's significant strides in leveraging technology to bridge the digital divide and promote gender inclusion. India's active participation in the ITU-WTSA 2024 not only underscored its leadership in telecommunications but also garnered support from numerous countries, including the USA, UK, Brazil, China, Japan, and Australia.

UN Day Celebration

October 24th is marked as the annual celebration of United Nations Day. On October 24th, 2024, during the WTSA-24, a special event was organized to commemorate UN Day. The event, held at the Digital Wave Stage, brought together representatives from various UN agencies to discuss the role of technology in addressing global challenges.

Submission of comments to TRAI on Satellite -- 25-10-2024

On September 27, 2024, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper outlining the Terms and Conditions for the Assignment of Spectrum for Certain Satellite-Based Commercial Communication Services. The initial deadline for submissions was October 18, 2024, which was later extended to October 25, 2024.

IAFI circulated the Consultation Paper to its industry partners, seeking their input. Based on the feedback received, the IAA drafted a detailed response and submitted it to TRAI on October 25, 2024, within the extended deadline.
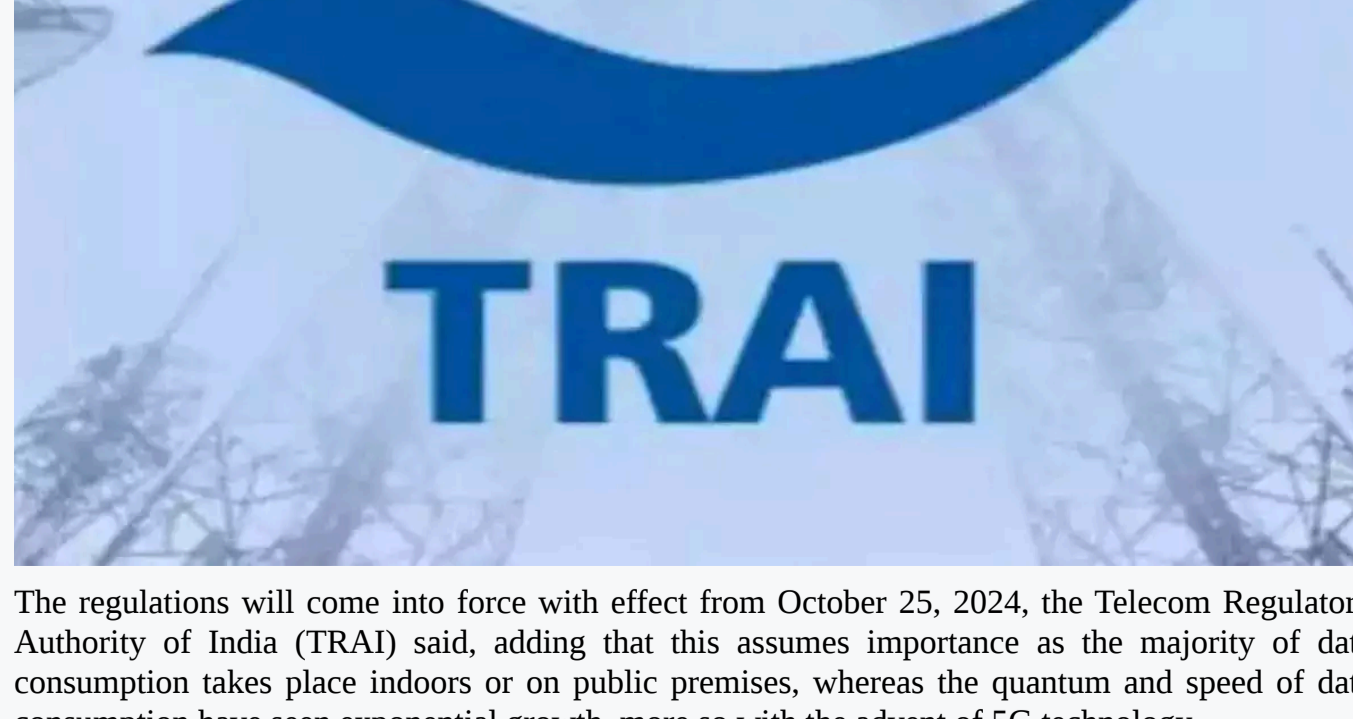
TRAI Consultation Papers

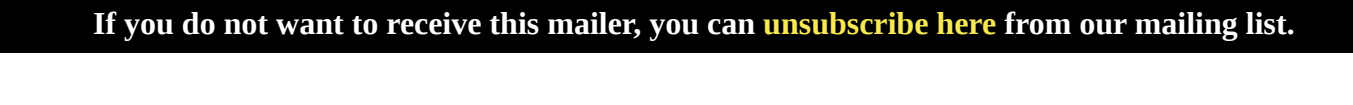| Consultation Papers	Submission Dates	Action	TRAI Responses
Terms and Conditions for the Assignment of Spectrum for Certain Satellite-Based Commercial Communication Services	25th Oct 2024	SUBMITTED	File:1

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

18th Oct - 23rd Oct 2024

Meeting	Submission Dates	Action	IAFI Preparatory Meetings
ITU-R: Working Party 4A (WP-4A)	21st Oct - 31st Oct 2024	16th Oct 2024	--
ITU-R: Study Group 4 (SG-4)	01st Nov 2024	16th Oct 2024	--
ITU-R: Working Party 4B (WP-4B)	04th - 08th Nov 2024	25th Oct 2024	--
ITU-R: Working Party 4C (WP-4C)	11th - 15th Nov 2024	25th Oct 2024	--
ITU-R: Working Party 5A (WP-5A)	05th - 13th Nov 2024	25th Oct 2024	--
APT: 25th Meeting of South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-25)	14th - 15th Nov 2024	--	--
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-21 (APT WTDC 21-2/APT WTDC21-2)	19th - 24th Oct 2024	30th Nov 2024	--

Telecom Stories:

India and Germany today released a 'roadmap on innovation and technology' aimed at collaboration in AI, semiconductors and clean energy. It was among the clutch of agreements signed at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz here on Friday.

Two days ago, Germany had announced a 'skilled labour mobility strategy' aimed at recruiting 90,000 skilled persons annually from India for white-collared and blue-collared jobs. Today to target this, the two sides signed separate agreements, including India-Germany managerial training programme, an MoU on cooperation in the field of' skill development and vocational education and training' and also a 'joint declaration of intent of labour and employment'.

The World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA 2024) has adopted two key resolutions proposed by India on digital public infrastructure (DPI) and artificial intelligence (AI). The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will now prioritise standardisation in these areas, both of which have been pushed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The ITU, a specialised United Nations agency for information and communication technologies of which India is a part, conducts the WTSA every four years to plan its standardisation programme. Concluding on Thursday, the WTSA 2024 adopted and modified existing guidelines and agreed on new other new resolutions, all supported by India.

The negotiations will come into force with effect from October 15, 2024, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) said, adding that this seasonal importance as the majority of data consumption takes place indoors or in public premises, whereas the quantum and speed of data consumption have seen exponential growth, more so with the advent of 5G technology.

Trai has decided to set up a rating platform to assess and rate properties on the quality of digital connectivity as the telecom regulator outlined an elaborate framework and norms to nudge property managers to think of a "good digital connectivity experience" for customers. Based on the quality of digital connectivity and scores awarded, the properties will be assigned star-based ratings --ranging from one star to five.

The properties for digital connectivity rating are classified into different categories - Residential, Government Properties, Commercial Properties, Other private or public areas, Stadiums or Sports Arenas or spaces of frequent gathering and Transport corridors, Trai said.