ITU-APT Foundation of India ITU's Association in India

January Highlights

Monthly News Summary

Dear Respected Member, ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is delighted to share its previous month's activities with



IAFI submits seven contributions in WP-5D: Following extensive consultations with its members, the IAFI submitted seven key contributions for the upcoming WP-5D meeting, scheduled to be held in a hybrid format from February 4th to 13th, 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland.

- C-453: Further updates on Working Document M.2527 regarding "Applications of the terrestrial component of IMT for specific societal, industrial and other usages".
 C-454: Updates on working document regarding "Coordination of stations in the fixed service
- (FS) with IMT stations in the frequency band 6 425-7 125 MHz".3. C-455: Updates on working document regarding "Usage of IMT for Aircraft to everything (A2X)
- Communications". 4. C-456: Updates on working document regarding "Mitigation of interference for IMT network under
- tropospheric ducting effect".
 5. C-508: Proposed Liaison Statement regarding determination of draft new recommendation ITU.T Y.3211 (ex. Y.FMSC-ABC-REQ) "Fixed, mobile and satellite convergence: requirements of
- supporting airborne broadband communication for IMT-2020 networks and beyond".6. C-509: Further updates to the working document towards a preliminary draft new Report on sharing and compatibility studies in relation to WRC-27 agenda item 1.7.
- C-510: IAFI and WWRF joint contribution on "Characteristics Template and Evaluation Template as part of IMT-2030".

The meeting received a total of 139 contributions, with the majority focused on Agenda Items 1.7 and 1.13 of the WRC-23.

SATRC Workshop at Goa: The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organized the three-days South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC) workshop on Spectrum from 21st to 23rd January, 2025 in Goa, with physical attendance as well as virtual/online participation through Zoom (i.e. hybrid meeting). The workshop was hosted by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI, who welcomed Shri Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT. The event saw strong participation with 115 attendees joining both inperson and virtually. The workshop addressed a wide range of spectrumrelated topics, including: NGSO satellite constellations for space-based communication services Land mobile radio systems, particularly VHF and UHF person-to-person communication Satellite-IMT integration, Spectrum outlook and registration of frequency assignments, Backhaul infrastructure readiness for 5G deployment, Spectrum valuation and pricing 6G/IMT-2030 and Terahertz spectrum prospects. The objective was to facilitate knowledge sharing, identify challenges and opportunities, and explore potential solutions for effective spectrum management. The workshop provided a valuable platform for SATRC members and industry stakeholders to exchange experiences and discuss future plans. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President IAFI, along with many other members attended the workshop physically, while many IAFI members joined the workshop virtually. During the workshop, Shri Bhatia IAFI moderated a key session titled "6G/IMT-2030: Catalyzing the Next Wave of Connectivity". The session explored the transformative potential of 6G/IMT-2030, analyzing how its anticipated capabilities and applications could revolutionize various sectors. IAFI members played a prominent role in sharing their expertise during the workshop. Shri Bhatia delivered a lecture on "Terahertz Spectrum: Innovations, Challenges and Prospects," providing valuable insights into this rapidly evolving field. Shri Rajesh Mehrotra presented on "Registration of Frequency Assignments in MIFR by SATRC Countries," while Shri Jitendra Singh focused on "6G/IMT-2030: Catalyzing the next wave of connectivity." Additionally, Shri Sendil Kumar Devar, delivered a lecture on "Spectrum Outlook," and Shri Punit Rathod addressed the topic of "5G from space: The next frontier for global connectivity."

First meeting of NSG - 6 and NWP- 6 corresponding to SG-6 of ITU-R: The Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing (WPC) established National Study Group 6 (NSG6) and its associated National Working Party 6 (NWP-6) through Office Memorandum (OM) no. T11012/05/2023-ISR dated June 8, 2023. Shri N K Bhola, JWA was appointed Chairman, NSG-6, and Shri Rajeev Kumar, Director (Engineering), Doordarshan was appointed Chairman, NWP-6. The inaugural NSG-6 meeting, held in hybrid format on January 6, 2025, with a physical presence at the Conference Hall, WMO Headquarters, Pushpa Bhawan, New Delhi, began with a welcome address by Chairman. He emphasized the significance of active participation and valuable contributions from stakeholders to the ITU-R Study Group 6 (Broadcasting Services), encouraging members to prepare for the next meeting. The NWP-6 Coordinator then presented an overview of ITU-R SG-6, including its structure, scope, and associated Working Parties (WP-6A, WP-6B, WP-6C). The presentation also detailed the roles and activities of NSG-6 and NWP-6, and summarized key outcomes from the November 2024 SG6 meeting. Chairman announced upcoming meetings of SG-6A from March 5-12, 2025, and SG-6 on March 14, 2025. He concluded by expressing gratitude for the active participation and valuable suggestions from all attendees.

WG-2 of NFAP-2025 Meeting in DoT: The Fifth meeting of the WG-2 of NFAP-2025 was held on 14 January, 2025 under the chairmanship of Shri N K Bhola, Director Monitoring and Joint Wireless Advisor, WPC. The meeting was organized to consider proposals of ISRO with regard to 2.0 GHz and 2.5 GHz. ISRO proposal was to delete IMT from parts 2.5 GHz bands. After detailed discussions, it was agreed to set up a further offline group to modify IND 26.

IAFI EC Meeting: – **15-01-2025:** The 22nd Meeting of the IAFI Executive Council (EC) convened on January 15, 2025, at the CSOI, Vinay Marg, New Delhi, with provisions for both physical and virtual attendance. Eleven members joined the meeting physically and five members participated remotely. IAFI President, Shri Bharat Bhatia, presided over the meeting. Shri T R Dua, Chairman of IAFI, expressed gratitude to the members and commended the President, Shri Bhatia and his team for their contributions to the growth of the IAFI. The President reviewed the action items from the 21st EC meeting and announced the addition of two new members and two honorary members, bringing the total membership to 163, comprising 113 individual paid members, 22 honorary members, and 28 corporate members. He highlighted IAFI's active engagement with international telecommunications organizations, including consistent participation in ITU-R, ITU-T, ITU-D, and APT activities, and timely responses to consultation papers from TRAI and TEC. Furthermore, IAFI maintained active involvement in meetings organized by DoT, TRAI, TEC, and WPC.

All the key event since the last EC meeting were also reviewed, including a VIP dinner reception hosted for delegates attending WTSA-24 and the successful 4th Indian Spectrum Management Conference held on November 7-8, 2024. The President outlined IAFI's planned activities for 2025, including participation in the ITU-D World Telecommunication Development conference (WTDC-25) in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 17-28, 2025. Members were encouraged to contribute to the 3rd APT Workshop scheduled for March 17-18, 2025, with a submission deadline of March 6, 2025. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Shri H C Soni, Joint Secretary (Finance),



SG-3/FG-CD Meeting: The DoT on 16-01-2025 arranged a virtual meeting, of FG-CD to discuss the issues likely to be raised in the upcoming meeting of the Focus Group on Costing Models for Affordable Data Service (FG-CD) functioning under SG-3 of ITU-T. The 5th meeting of the FG-CD will be held on 18-02-2025 at Gabon. Meeting was chaired by Shri S K Mishra and coordinated by Shri Satish Kumar MC, Dy Administrator, USOF, DoT. FG-CD consists of two working groups, WG-1&2 and three documents of WG-1 and four documents of WG-2 were discussed in the meeting. Shri S K Mishra, Chair informed that following two contributions submitted by IAFI need pursuance.

- 1. The first contribution, Document I-065, was focused on the role of IPv6 in optimizing network infrastructure and reducing internet data costs. IAFI, through this document, explained to members that implementing IPv6 can lower internet data costs. Citing India's leadership in IPv6 implementation, with over 83% conversion from IPv4 to IPv6 and some of the world's lowest internet data costs, IAFI proposed a comprehensive study by the FG-CD to assess the potential financial impact of IPv6 implementation. Chairman suggested that IAFI should submit further proposals to investigate this area and determine the correlation between IPv6 adoption and internet data costs.
- 2. During the third FG-CD meeting in Malawi, the IAFI presented a contribution citing a study by the British website cable.co.uk on the cost of 1GB of mobile internet data. The study revealed that data costs are lowest in developed economies like Israel and Italy, while being significantly higher in similar countries like the UK and USA. India also exhibits lower data costs compared to many developing nations. To understand this phenomenon, IAFI submitted a draft questionnaire to the FG-CD. Contribution was discussed and members suggested that the questionnaire should be formatted in a yes/no format. IAFI subsequently submitted revised questioner at the November 2024 meeting (I-064). The proposed questionnaire was discussed at the meeting, and the draft questionnaire attached to IAFI's proposal was uploaded by the TSB for online feedback from stakeholder, using the link "https://forms.office.com/e/Sq0L6d2mY4." The Chair emphasized the importance and suggested IAFI for pursuing this matter with member states and stakeholders in getting reply.

IAFI Radio Group Meeting – 17-01-2025: IAFI Radio Group meeting was organized in virtual mode on 17-01-2025 to review and finalize the contributions to be submitted in the upcoming WP-5D meeting, which is likely to be held from 03 to 14 Feb, 2025 at Geneva, Switzerland. After detailed discussion, following seven contributions has been finalized.

- a. IAFI and WWRF joint contribution on "Characteristics Template and Evaluation Template as part of IMT-2030".
- b. Further updates on Working Document M.2527 regarding "Applications of the terrestrial component of IMT for specific societal, industrial and other usages".
- c. Proposed Liaison Statement regarding determination of draft new recommendation ITU.T Y.3211 (ex. Y.FMSC-ABC-REQ) " Fixed, mobile and satellite convergence: requirements of supporting airborne broadband communication for IMT-2020 networks and beyond".
- d. Updates on working document regarding "Mitigation of interference for IMT network under tropospheric ducting effect".
 a. Updates on working document regarding "One line in the state of the state of
- e. Updates on working document regarding "Coordination of stations in the fixed service (FS) with IMT stations in the frequency band 6 425-7 125 MHz".f. Updates on working document regarding "Usage of IMT for Aircraft to everything (A2X)
- Communications". g. Updates on working document regarding "Usage of the IMT for object detection and tracking".

All above documents were circulated to members for further update, if any and final version will be submitted to ITU on 23-01-2025. **SG-20 /ITU-T Meeting:** IAFI participated in the ITU-T SG-20 Meeting regarding "Internet of things

(IoT) and smart cities and communities (SC&C)". Meeting started from 15th January and will continue till 24th Jan, 2025. Total 155 documents will be presented in the meeting. China submitted almost 80 contributions.

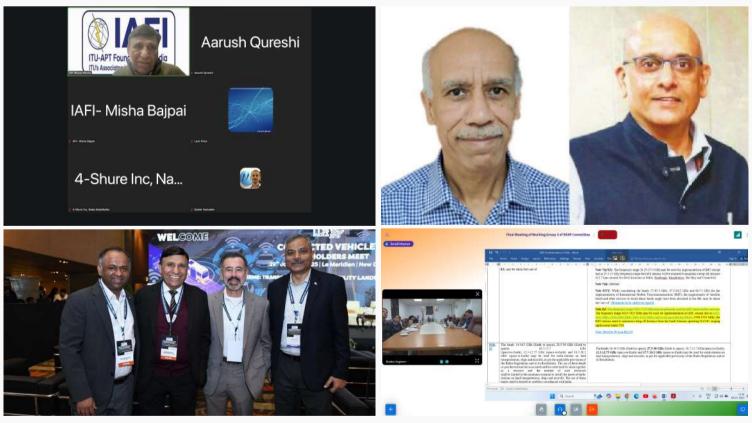
Bidding farewell to Ms Madhu Arora, ex-Member (Technology): On 17th Jan, 2025, IAFI hosted a farewell luncheon to honor Ms. Madhu Arora, retired as Member (Technology), the Digital Communications Commission (DCC), DoT. The event was attended by numerous dignitaries, including senior officers from the DoT, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), and Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing (WPC), along with senior industry executives. IAFI President, Shri Bharat Bhatia, addressed the gathering and presented Ms. Arora with a bouquet. Ms. Aarush Qureshi, General Manager, IAFI, then presented a memento to Ms. Arora. The celebration was further brightened with musical performances by several attendees. Ms Madhu Arora was 1986 batch ITS officer, hold B.Tech degree from Delhi College of Engineering, an MBA from University of Queensland and LLB from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University. She took over the charge of Member (Technology), DCC in April, 2024, succeeded Ms Gunjan Dave.

IAFI letter to MoC for setting-up regulatory sandbox for 6G R&D: Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a letter to Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Hon'ble Minister of Communication, formally requested the establishment of a regulatory sandbox framework for sixth-generation (6G) technology in India. This framework aims to accelerate 6G research and development by reserving specific spectrum bands for experimentation and controlled deployments. The IAFI proposed reserving portions of the 6425-7125 MHz and 14.8-15.35 GHz ranges, and incorporating mechanisms like Licensed Shared Access (LSA) and Dynamic Spectrum Access (DSA) to allow innovators to test new technologies in a controlled regulatory environment. In addition, IAFI also recommended immediately opening the 7025-8400 MHz and 14.8-15.35 GHz bands, to speed-up the research work, as these frequencies are crucial for building robust 6G networks and enabling applications like ultra-fast internet and next-generation IoT solutions. Furthermore, the IAFI proposes delicensing certain spectrum bands for specific industries:

a. 4940-5000 MHz - for localized industrial use.

b. 5875-5925 MHz - for Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything (C-V2X) technology.
c. 5925-6425 MHz - for indoor applications like AR/VR, high-speed RLAN, and AI-driven

technologies. By prioritizing the 7125-8400 MHz band for research, the IAFI believes India can lead the development of technologies that seamlessly integrate the physical, digital, and virtual worlds. The IAFI's proposals underscore its dedication to ensuring India's dominance in the global race for 6G innovation, as India is poised on the brink of a technological revolution, and the strategic allocation of spectrum for 6G research and development is crucial for the nation to lead the charge.



7th *I* **Final Meeting of the Working Group -1(WG-1) of NFAP-2022:** The seventh and final meeting of Working Group-1 (Frequencies up to 1 GHz) of the NFAP-2022 Review/Revision Committee convened virtually on January 7, 2025, under the leadership of Shri Viresh Goel, Joint Wireless Adviser, in online mode. Representatives from Industry, Academia, officers from the WPC wing of the DoT, and other Government Organizations 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. Many documents especially submitted by M/s Zero Sum regarding V2X ITS Solution, M/s Arya OmniTalk Radio Trunking Service regarding Channelling Block Arrangements, M/s Susan Future Technologies regarding PPDR and foot notes related to India in the Table of Frequency Allocation were discussed in details. All participants expressed thanks to WPC wing for involving industries, academia and other government organizations before finalizing the NFAP-2025. The collaborative approach of the WPC Wing, involving stakeholders from various

sectors in the NFAP-2025 revision process, was widely appreciated by all the participants. **IAFI's Radio Group meeting for WP-5D:** IAFI Radio Group meeting was organized in virtual mode on 08-01-2025 to review and finalize the contributions to be submitted in the upcoming WP-5D meeting, likely to be held from 03 to 14 Feb, 2025 at Geneva, Switzerland. After detailed discussion, following five contributions has been finalized.

- 1. IAFI and WWRF joint contribution on "Characteristics Template and Evaluation Template as part of IMT-2030".
- Further updates on Working Document M.2527 regarding "Applications of the terrestrial component of IMT for specific societal, industrial and other usages".
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 Updates on working document regarding "Mitigation of interference for IMT network under
- tropospheric ducting effect".5. Updates on working document regarding "Coordination of stations in the fixed service (FS) with IMT stations in the frequency band 6 425-7 125 MHz". All above documents were circulated to

members for further update, if any. Next and final meeting of the IAFI Radio Group will be held on 16-01-2025.

Final Meeting of the Working Group -3 (WG-3) of NFAP-2022 Review Committee: The Final meeting of the WG-3 of NFAP-2022 Review/Revision committee was held on 10-01-2025 in a virtual mode. NFAP Working Group-3 was formed to discuss the revision of provisions related to frequency bands beyond 6 GHz in line with WRC-23 decisions. One of the frequency band which was considered for discussion was 6425-7025 MHz band. A separate informal group was formed with Shri Vinay Srivastava of M/s RJIL as coordinator, as DoS informed during these deliberations that there are existing satellite services which has to be protected. Frequency band used for various services like IRNSS CDMA, GAGAN, TT&C, MSS Feeder Link and frequency band used for Antarctica Uplink within 6425 -7025 MHz were discussed. There was detailed discussion on the Foot Note ZZ of IND-16 and after detailed deliberations by various stakeholders; foot note was finalized by the meeting, ensuring the continued operation and protection of existing satellite services while accommodating future spectrum needs.

India leading the way in affordable Internet Access: On January 7, 2025, the Department of Telecom released a report highlighting India's leadership in providing affordable internet access. The report emphasized three key parameters for ensuring accessible and high-quality data for all citizens.

- a. Lowest Data Tariff in India's Data Tariff is 16 cent per GB (Rs 13.06 approx.), among lowest in the world.
- b. Faster Data Speed Median Mobile Broadband speed has reached to 100 Mbps.
 c. High Data Usage in India Data usage per subscriber per month has reached to 21.3 GB,
- among highest in the world. A comparative chart is also attached showing comparison of rate of package with minimum mobile, voice and data of various countries are compared, as detailed below.
- a. India \$ 1.89 per month (Rs 162.01/-) for unlimited voice and 18 GB data.
- b. Russia \$ 6.55 per month (Rs 564.58/-).
- c. China \$ 8.84 per month (Rs 761.97/-).
- d. UK \$ 12.50 per month (Rs 1077.44/-).
 e. South Africa \$ 15.80 per month (Rs 1361.89/-).
- f. Australia \$ 20.10 per month (Rs 1732.53/-).

g. USA - \$ 49.00 per month (Rs 4223.58/-).

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. 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.

4th meeting of Working Group-2 (1 to 6 GHz) of NFAP review/ revision: 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) and JWA, 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

and suitable amendments were made to the NFAP draft.

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 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 Things (IoT) era.

9th Meeting of NSG5 held on 3rd January, 2025: The 9th Meeting of the NSG-5 was held under the chairmanship of Sh. Gulab Chand, JWA WPC Wing in online. All four input documents submitted by the NWPs were agreed and submitted to WPC. IAFI attended the meeting online.

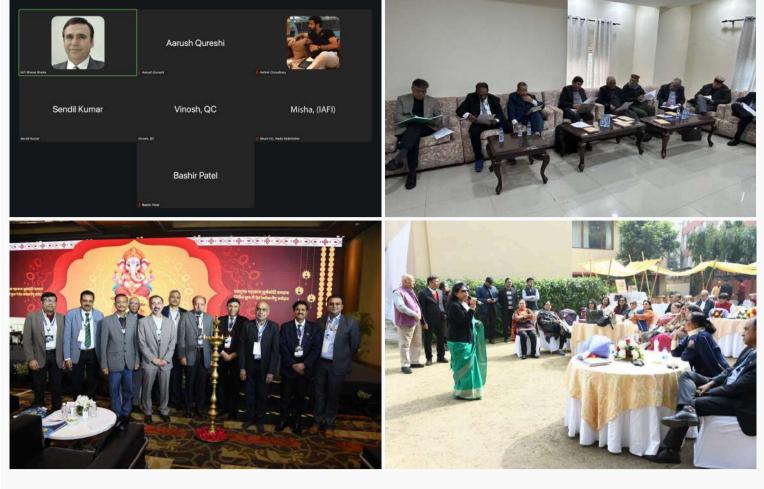
DoT order for waiver of Bank Guarantee for spectrum auctions conducted in 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2021: In a move signalling continued government support for the Indian telecom sector, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) waived bank guarantees (BGs) worth Rs 33,000 crore for private operators on December 27, 2024. This decision, benefiting Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and most significantly Vodafone Idea (VI) with a relief of Rs 24,800 crore, applies to spectrum auctions held between 2012 and 2021. Notably, the requirement for BGs in spectrum auctions was already removed for recent auctions conducted in 2022 and 2024 as part of the 2021 telecom reforms package. By waiving these BGs, the government aims to free up resources for telecom operators, enabling them to invest further in expanding 4G and 5G network infrastructure across India.

TRAI launched a new website: On 23-12-2024, TRAI launched new website, and available at https://trai.gov.in/. TRAI has revealed that an upgraded website to broaden its reach to connect with a wider audience. Considering the growing importance of social media, new sharing features facilitate the broadcasting the regulatory information to all stakeholders. The new website includes the following additional features

- 1. Introduction of a new dashboard for Telecom & Broadcasting sector.
- 2. Provision of data-download for research.
- A Grid View feature, allowing users to view data in a new and interactive format.
 In addition to sharing via email, users can now also share documents directly through major social media platforms, links for visualisation on Instagram, Youtube, Linkedin, Whatsapp, Eachback V etc.
- Facebook, X etc.5. Online Registration for subscription to TRAI latest releases and updates.
- 6. A blog with a facility for registered users to comment.
- Provision to publish information about upcoming events.
 Online registration for participation in Open House Discussions
- 9. Compliance to accessibility features.
- 10. Tenders and notices

11. Concise and compiled regulations at a single place with amendments mentioned in foot notes.

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



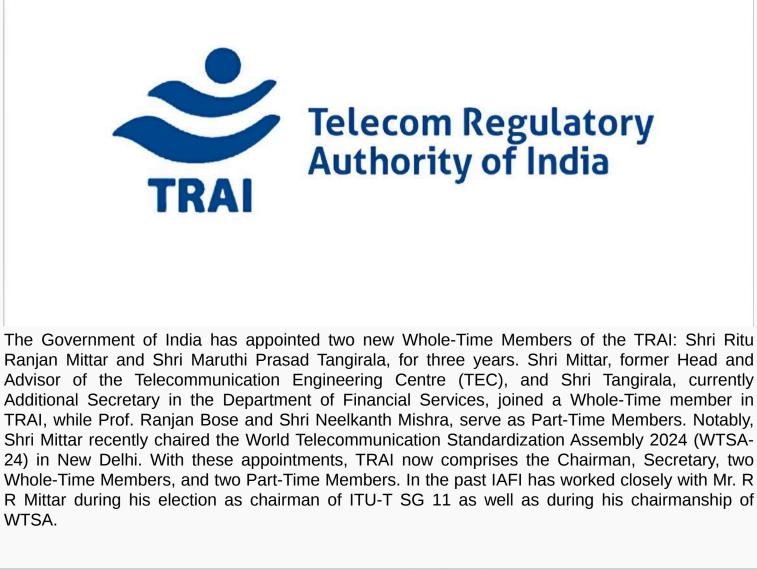
- IAFI in the comprehensive comment on TRAI Consultation Paper concerning terms and conditions of network authorization under new Telecom Act, 2023, highlighted critical reforms to ensure robust telecom infrastructure, equitable spectrum access and innovation friendly regulatory environment Read More
- 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 issues, Direct broadcast to Mobile, GSO/NGSO issues and Read More
- 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
- 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
- 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 4.0. Read More
- 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 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
- DoT to resolve 5G coexistence with radio altimeters, start studies on CBRS: Official Read More
 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 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 More
- 17. 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

Links to our Activities & Programmes

1) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Strategic Spectrum Allocation for R&D and Regulatory Sandbox to Propel India's Leadership in 6G
2) Letter to Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Shri P K Mishra for PMO Support needed for Innovation and Local Manufacturing
3) Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India Request for IAFI's recommendation for Delicensing of Captive 5G networks under Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
4) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways Request for Industry consultation on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023
5) Letter to Secretary, Ministry of Power Request for Implementing Green Open Access Rules for the Telecom Sector in States/UTs
6) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of MTCTE
7) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Devices under MTCTE
8) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) wants all telecom licence holders to migrate to an authorisation regime in a time-bound manner so that existence of two separate frameworks, leaving room for potential litigation, could be avoided. "We are finalising the structure of the authorisation regime based on the recommendations of the regulator, and will try to implement it in a time-bound manner," an official told ET, without sharing further details. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has already shared its recommendations with DoT on the authorisation regime, majority of which have been approved by Digital Communications Commission (DCC), the highest decision-making body of DoT.



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