

Quarter Highlights (January to March 2024)

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: IAFI hosted a two-day workshop on WRC-23 insights and planning for WRC-27 in Bangalore on February 22-23. The hybrid event brought together over 100 experts, including government and industry leaders. Key sessions covered IMT and satellite services, WRC-27 preparations, and India's participation in spectrum studies, highlighting crucial agenda items for future ITU and APT meetings.

IAFI Radio Group Prepares for AWG-32 Meeting: The IAFI Radio Group collaborated with industry partners to finalize contributions for the AWG-32 meeting in Pattaya, Bangkok, from March 4-8. Discussions identified six key issues for further study, ensuring comprehensive preparation.

45th Meeting of ITU-R WP-5D in Geneva: The 45th ITU-R WP-5D meeting, held from January 31 to February 7 in Geneva, saw active participation from IAFI delegates. Contributions by IAFI included proposals on IMT applications, spectrum arrangements, and draft reports on advanced technologies. IAFI's input on "unwanted emissions" received unanimous acceptance, with progress on draft recommendations.

India Satcom Symposium 2024: ET Satcom's inaugural India Satcom Symposium on January 31 showcased India's vision for satellite broadband in underserved regions. Key discussions included spectrum allocation decisions at WRC-23 and compatibility between GSO and Non-GSO satellite systems. IAFI President Bharat Bhatia emphasized Satcom's role in achieving nationwide connectivity and addressed spectrum challenges.

2nd APT Preparatory Meeting for WTS-24: The APT virtual meeting, held February 5-6, reviewed 57 contributions, including 30 from India and IAFI, to prepare for WTS-24 in October. Discussions focused on ITU-T methods, organization, and regulatory issues, with a commitment to finalizing PACP topics for submission at future meetings.



Letters to DoT on Spectrum Assignment and SUC Rationalization: IAFI President Bharat Bhatia wrote to the DoT, urging swift spectrum allocation for VSAT services to avoid delays and rationalization of spectrum usage charges (SUC). Highlighting disparities in SUC rates, the letter called for uniform charges of 1% AGR across all satellite services, aligning with TRAI recommendations for a fair regulatory framework.

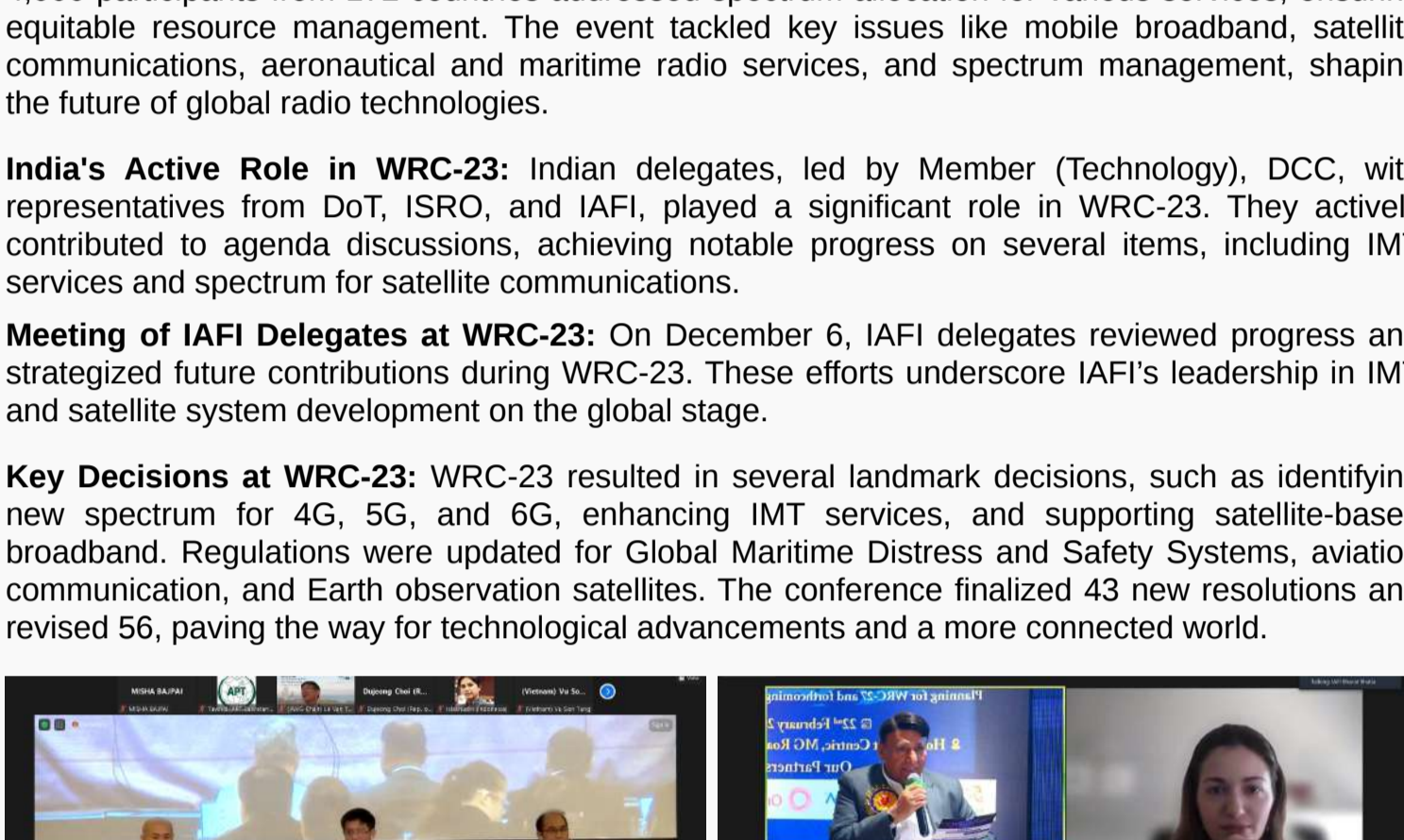
IAFI Inputs for the APT WTS-24 Preparatory Group Meeting: IAFI and TEC collaborated on 16 input contributions addressing key WTS-24 resolutions. A preparatory workshop on January 10, 2024, united stakeholders to finalize 30 submissions representing India. These contributions, focused on both existing and new WTS resolutions, are now accessible on the APT Web Portal.

First National Preparatory Workshop for WTS-24: In collaboration with TEC, IAFI organized a full-day workshop on January 10, 2024, at CSO, New Delhi. Inaugurated by DCC officials, the event aimed to refine India's contributions for the 45th WP-5D meeting in Geneva. The workshop facilitated detailed discussions, with senior officials and stakeholders ensuring strategic alignment for India's global telecom participation.

IAFI Radio Group Meetings for WP-5D Preparations: The IAFI Radio Group convened on January 12 and 16, 2024, to prepare contributions for the 45th WP-5D meeting in Geneva. Seven detailed submissions covered spectrum allocation, financial inclusion, and emission characteristics for IMT technologies, reflecting IAFI's strong commitment to global telecom advancements.

ITU's Telecom Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) Meeting: The TSAG meeting held in Geneva from January 22-26, 2024, discussed key changes, including the consolidation of ITU-T Study Groups to enhance operational efficiency. IAFI actively participated virtually in the deliberations.

31st Convergence India Expo: Held from January 17-19, 2024, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, this event highlighted the role of AI in telecom. IAFI President Bharat Bhatia discussed AI's transformative potential in network optimization and its regulatory implications, while providing insights into India's new Telecommunications Act, 2023.



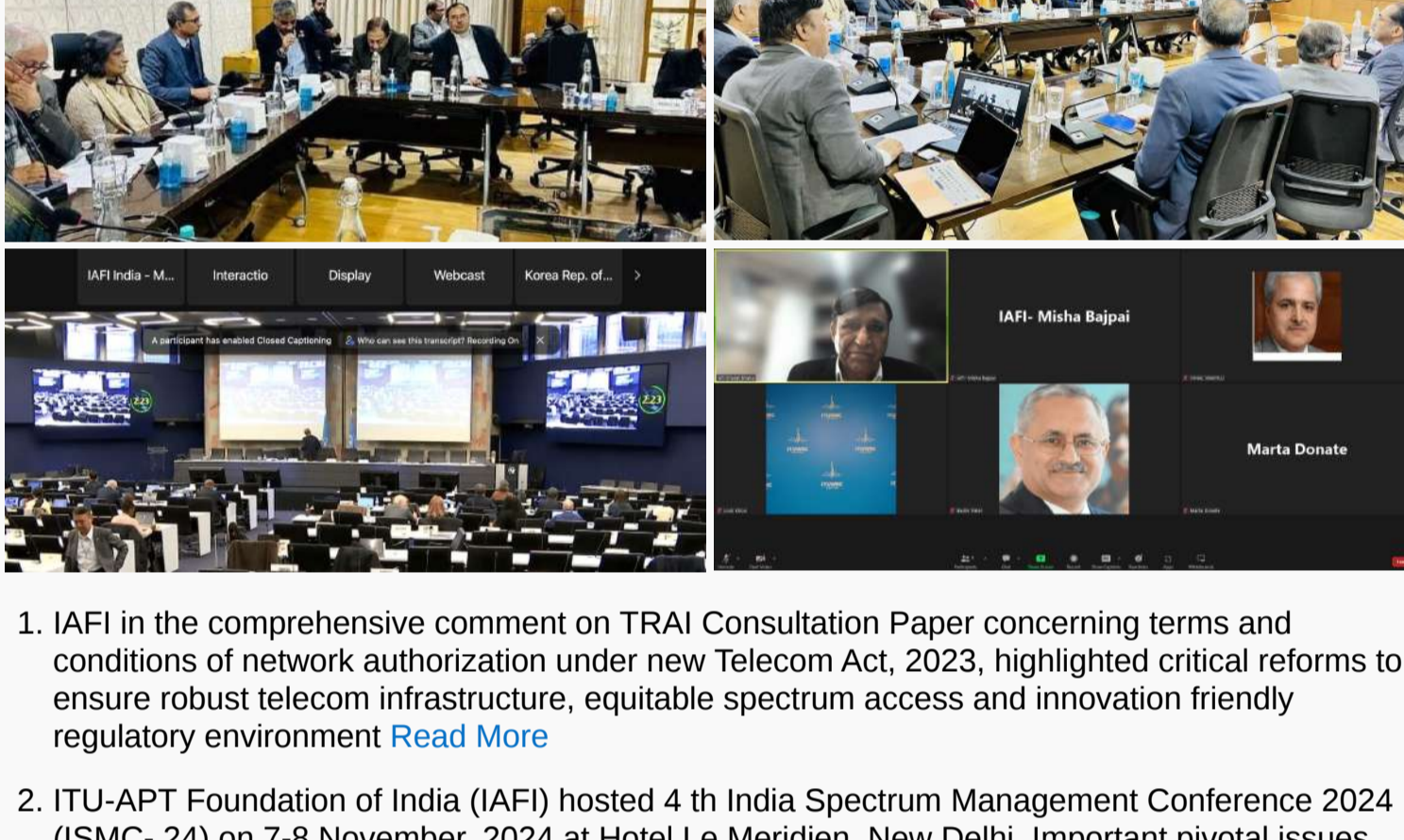
Telecom Act 2023 Passed by Both Houses: The Telecommunications Act, replacing outdated laws, aims to streamline licensing and introduce measures for spectrum allocation, user protection, and regulatory reform. While the Act awaits a commencement notification, the Department of Telecommunications is drafting over 30 key rules to reshape the sector, ensuring alignment with modern telecom needs.

World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23): The ITU's flagship event, WRC-23, was held in Dubai from November 20 to December 15, 2023, hosted by the UAE's TDRA. Over 4,000 participants from 172 countries addressed spectrum allocation for various services, ensuring equitable resource management. The event tackled key issues like mobile broadband, satellite communications, aeronautical and maritime radio services, and spectrum management, shaping the future of global radio technologies.

India's Active Role in WRC-23: Indian delegates, led by Member (Technology), DCC, with representatives from DoT, ISRO, and IAFI, played a significant role in WRC-23. They actively contributed to agenda discussions, achieving notable progress on several items, including IMT services and spectrum for satellite communications.

Meeting of IAFI Delegates at WRC-23: On December 6, IAFI delegates reviewed progress and strategized future contributions during WRC-23. These efforts underscore IAFI's leadership in IMT and satellite system development on the global stage.

Key Decisions at WRC-23: WRC-23 resulted in several landmark decisions, such as identifying new spectrum for 4G, 5G, and 6G, enhancing IMT services, and supporting satellite-based broadband. Regulations were updated for Global Maritime Distress and Safety Systems, aviation communication, and Earth observation satellites. The conference finalized 43 new resolutions and revised 56, paving the way for technological advancements and a more connected world.



Preparations Begin for WRC-27: Following WRC-23, the CPM27-1 meeting on December 18-19, 2023, laid the groundwork for WRC-27 and WRC-31. Delegates began organizing studies on topics like spectrum allocation for emerging technologies and satellite orbit management. This marks a crucial step toward the next phase of global radio-communication planning.

IAFI Radio Group Prepares for WP-5D: On December 22, the IAFI Radio Group convened to discuss contributions for the 45th WP-5D meeting in January 2024. The group identified 10 key issues, emphasizing IAFI's commitment to global telecom developments.

WTS-24 Preparations Underway: IAFI actively participated in a TEC-led meeting to strategize for WTS-24, set to take place in New Delhi in October 2024. The event will address evolving telecommunication standards, and IAFI is collaborating with stakeholders to ensure India's impactful presence at this significant event.

Comments on TRAI Consultation Paper: IAFI provided a detailed response to TRAI's consultation paper on spectrum allocation for MWA, MWB, E, and V Bands. The organization supported administrative allotment for TSPs in the E-Band and advocated for unlicensed access in the V-Band.

Contribution to WP-5D Restructuring: IAFI submitted a proposal to streamline WP-5D's structure and processes, ensuring better focus on IMT advancements and future agenda items for WRC-27. This highlights IAFI's proactive approach to enhancing global telecom ecosystems.

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



1. 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](#)

2. ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) hosted 4th 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](#)

4. ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) organized 4th India Spectrum Management Conference 2024 (ISMC-24) held from 7-8 Nov, 2024 at Hotel Le Meridien, 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 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](#)

9. 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](#)

13. DoT to resolve 5G coexistence with radio altimeters, start studies on CBRS: Official [Read More](#)

14. 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 WPSD 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 (WTS-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 WTS-24, review of resolutions, and proposals for new resolutions in the field of telecommunication standardization. [Read More](#)

Links to our Activities & Programmes

- 1) Letter to Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Shri P K Mishra for PMO Support needed for Innovation and Local Manufacturing
- 2) 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.
- 3) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways Request for Industry consultation on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023
- 4) Letter to Secretary, Ministry of Power Request for Implementing Green Open Access Rules for the Telecom Sector in States/UTs
- 5) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of MTCTE
- 6) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Devices under MTCTE
- 7) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
- 8) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for Urgent Intervention in Equipment Theft Cases
- 9) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways 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 in India
- 10) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Rationalization of Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) pertaining to Satellite Communications
- 11) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
- 12) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Suggestions for formulation of a new Policy for Spectrum Swapping

IAFI MEMBERSHIP

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is a non-profit, non-political, 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 28 and individual members to 135 making a total of 163 members. The EC also emphasizes on the Creation of a new member category for academia and a campaign to register Eminent educational institutes 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](#)



Partners Association



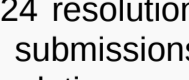
Activities in our focus areas during August 2024



By Victor Martínez, Chairman, Working Group for Regional and World Radiocommunication Conferences, Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL). International treaties ensure harmony among different interests and needs in the economic, social, political and cultural fields. This is particularly true in specific areas such as the environment or telecommunications. The Radio Regulations – the international treaty facilitating equitable access to and rational use of the natural resources of the radio-frequency spectrum and geostationary satellite orbits – are no exception; especially at a time of pressing need to guarantee access to new technologies and services to connect the unconnected.



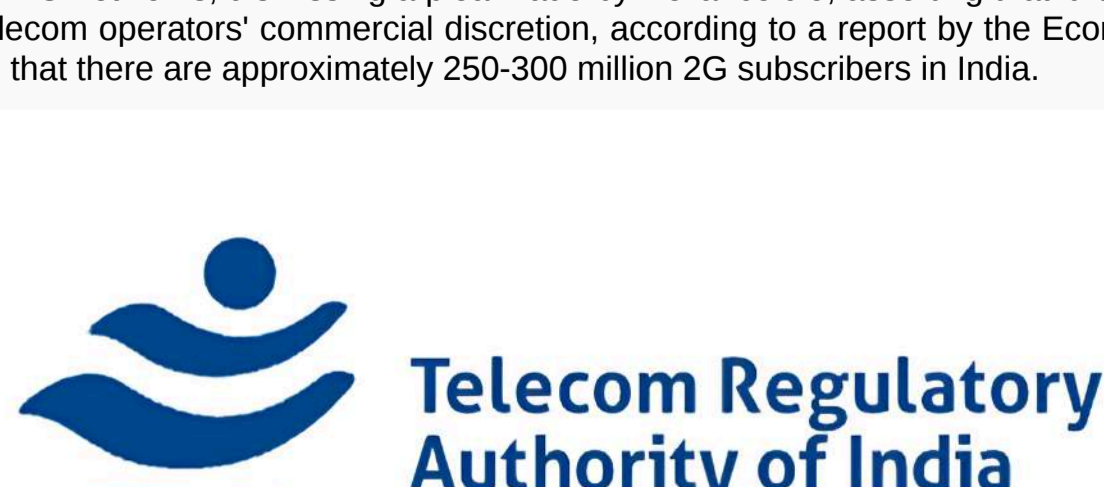
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सत्यमेव जयते

Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has opted not to interfere in the decision regarding the closure of 2G networks, dismissing a plea made by Reliance Jio, asserting that it falls within the purview of telecommunications' commercial discretion, according to a report by the Economic Times. It's estimated that there are approximately 250-300 million 2G subscribers in India.



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