

Monthly News Summary

Dear Respected Member,

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



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Meeting between Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, met with Shri Jyotiradiya Madhavara Scindia, the 2024, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of the IAFI, met with Shri Jyotiradiya Madhavara Scindia, the Hon'ble Minister of Communication and Minister for the Development of the North Eastern Region (DONER) for the Government of India. Shri Bharat Bhatia warmly welcomed and congratulated the Minister on his new role as Telecom Minister and extended an invitation to inaugurate the 4th India Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC-24), tentatively scheduled for November 7-8, 2024. The meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere, during which the Minister assured to address the major challenges faced by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and the telecom industry. He also accepted the invitation and confirmed his participation in the ISMC24.

IAFI comments on TRAI consultation paper regarding M2M: In Sept, 2017, TRAI provided its recommendations on 'Spectrum, Roaming and QoS for Machine-to-Machine (M2M) Communications. One of the recommendations was regarding the identification of Critical Services in M2M sector. Considering the specific and critical needs of such services and to have a wider understanding of sectoral requirements of critical M2M applications, an Inter-Ministerial Working Group (MWG) was constituted in Nov 19 to deliberate all issues. MWG submitted its report in March 21, identifying 20 services to be classified as critical. However, the DoT did not approve the MWG recommendations and requested again TRAI to provide recommendations on the identification of Critical Services in the M2M Sector and on the transfer of Ownership of M2M SIM. Therefore, TRAI released a new consultation paper to solicit comments of stakeholders on specific issues related to critical services in the M2M sector and the transfer of ownership of M2M SIMs. Consultation Paper was thoroughly examined by IAFI and after due consultation with industry partners, comments have been submitted to TRAI.

IAFI submitted a new contribution to FG-CD: During the last FG-CD meeting held at Lilongwe, Malawi from 9-10 April 2024, IAFI submitted a contribution 1038 regarding Infrastructure Sharing, wherein IAFI proposed to update the ITU-T recommendation D.264 regarding "Shared use of telecommunication facilities: possible methods for enhancing the efficiency of the use of the telecommunication", as these recommendations were issued by ITU-T in April, 2020 and since then many technological developments have taken place, with respect to infrastructure sharing. Contribution was discussed in detail and consented by the floor. In continuation of the above, IAFI now proposes to update the contribution by updating the existing recommendation D.264, in the upcoming meeting of the FG-CD likely to be held from 05-06 Aug, 2024, in virtual mode.

IAFI's 20th EC Meeting was held on 24-07-2024 and Call for IAFI Biannual Elections: IAFI's 20th EC Meeting was held on 24-07-2024 at IAFI office, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi in a hybrid mode. ECM was attended by 22 IAFI members. EC members received an update on Individual, Lifetime, and Corporate Memberships. The ECM also welcomed new Lifetime Members: Ms. Gurjani Dave, former Member (Technology), Digital Communication Commission; Shri V. Raghunandan, former Secretary (TRAI); Shri R. Mittar, former Director General, Department of Telecom and Chairman, WTSA-24; Prof. Rajeev Director, IIT, Surat; Dr. Shiv Kumar, Principal Advisor, BIR; and Shri Puneet Chawla, former CMD RailTel. In addition to the above, two new corporates joined IAFI corporate member, Mrs. Reliance Jio and Mrs. Druv Space. The EC also decided to hold the next AGM of IAFI on 30th August at CSDI New Delhi. Members were also informed that the IAFI biannual elections for the management team are now due and will be held on August 30, 2024. Some members suggested deferring the election process for two years, citing the smooth operation of the current body. However, Shri Bhatia advocated adhering to the established procedure and completing the election process as scheduled. So, it has been decided to hold the election of the Governing Body of the IAFI, on 30th Aug, 2024. Detailed notice has been issued calling for nominations. Following is the schedule for IAFI Elections: Receipt of Nominations Forms: 29-07-2024 to 16-08-2024 Scrutiny / Withdrawal of Nominations: 19-08-2024 to 23-08-2024 Publication of the Final List of Nominees: 28-08-2024 Date of Election: 30-08-2024 at 3.00 PM at CSDI, K. G. Marg, New Delhi-110001

Union Budget earmark Rs 1.29 Lakh Crore for Telecom Sector: Union Government has proposed the allocation of Rs 1.29 lakh crore for telecom projects and public sector firms under the telecom ministry with a majority of funds earmarked for state-owned BSNL. Of the total proposed allocation, over Rs one lakh crore is meant for BSNL and MTN-related expenses, including Rs 82,916 crore infusion in BSNL for technology upgradation and restructuring of BSNL. The budget has made provision of Rs 34.46 crore for Technology Development and Investment Promotion, Rs 70 crore for Champion Service Sector Scheme and Rs 1,806.34 crore for Production Linked Incentive Scheme.

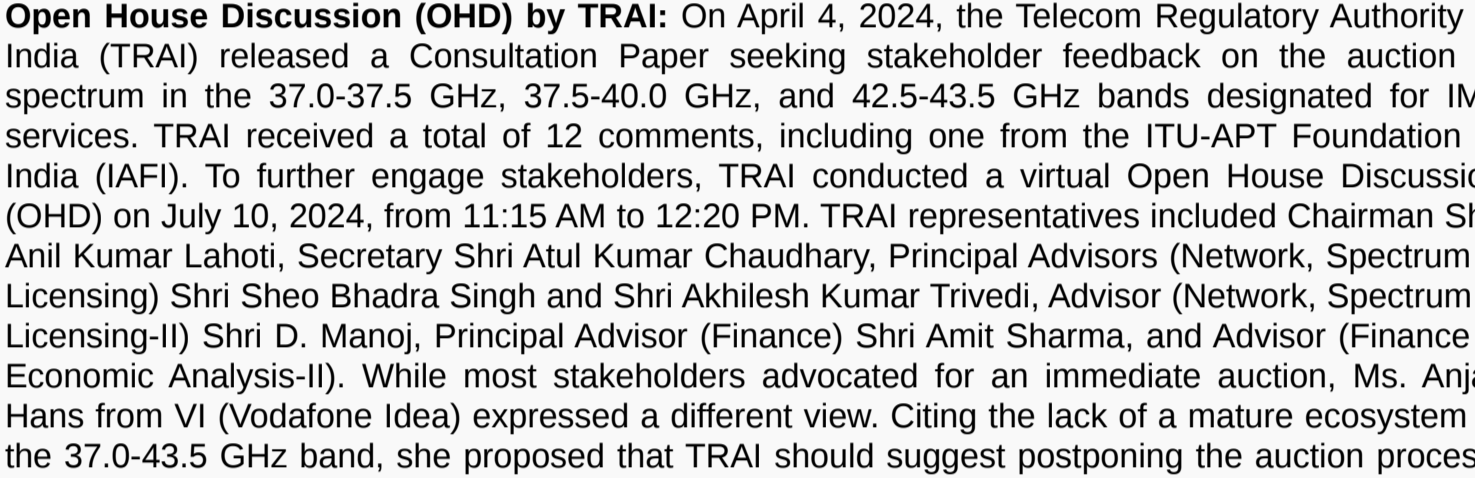
Meeting of SG-3 of ITU-T: Fifth meeting of SG-3 3 (Tariff and accounting principles and international telecommunication/CT economic and policy issues) of ITU-T was held from 09th July to 18th July, 2024 at Geneva, Switzerland in a hybrid mode. It was the last meeting of SG-3 for the study period 2022-24. Work of SG-3 was distributed among four working groups WG-1 to 4. There are six regional groups working under SG-3, as detailed below.

- 1. SG3RG-AFR - Regional Group for Africa
- 2. SG3RG-AO - Regional Group for Asia and Oceania
- 3. SG3RG-ARB - Regional Group for the Arab Region
- 4. SG3RG-EECAT - Regional Group for Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasia
- 5. SG3RG-EURM - Regional Group for Europe and the Mediterranean Basin
- 6. SG3RG-LAC - Regional Group for Latin America and the Caribbean

In addition to the above, one Focus Group (FG-CD) on Costing Models for Affordable Data Services is also functioning under the leadership of IAFI. The 1st meeting was attended by more than 100 participants. Total 48 contributions were presented in the meeting. It was decided to extend the life time of the FG-CD study group by one more year, till 03rd Oct, 2025. It was also decided in the meeting for the closure of SG3 Correspondence Group (CG-SG3-WTSA-24) prep constituted for the preparation for WTSA-24. It was decided in New Delhi SG-3 meeting will be held from 08th to 17th April, 2025 at Geneva, Switzerland.

Virtual meeting of Working Group -2 of NFAP-2: 1st Meeting of Working Group-2 (req. 1 to 6 GHz) of NFAP-2022 Review Revision Committee was held on 19.07.2024 under the Chairmanship of Shri. N. K Bhatia, JWA, WPC. Main aim of the meeting was to update India's National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP), as it was last updated in October 2022 and many decisions taken during WRC-23 (China, Sudan, Kenya, etc.) have to be incorporated. IAFI President, Shri V. Raghunandan, former Secretary (TRAI), IAFI explained the IAFI's view on the various frequency bands, especially de-licensing the frequency band from 5925-6425 MHz, for the WARS/LAN and Wi-Fi 6E, as more than 70 countries have already de-licensed the same. Similarly, it was explained to the members regarding the use of the frequency band 5878-5925 MHz, for the use of C-V2X, for Intelligent Transport System.

Bharat 6G Alliance leadership Tech Talks: The Bharat 6G Alliance initiated regular "6G Leadership Tech Talks" to strategically position India as a key contributor to global 6G standards, deployments, and services. The inaugural discussion focused on "Developing India's Spectrum Roadmap for 6G." Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of IAFI, delivered an excellent in-depth presentation on the current state of frequency bands, global 6G and India's capabilities of the spectrum allocation for current and potential future IMT services. A comprehensive overview of 4G and 5G spectrum, exploring all relevant bands was commendable. Participants actively engaged in the discussion, raising numerous questions that were thoroughly addressed.



Theme of IMC-24 was launched by the Telecom Minister The theme of the India Mobile Congress 2024 (IMC-24), "The Future is Now", was unveiled on July 19 by Shri Jyotiradiya M. Scindia, Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region on July 18. The theme signifies how India stands at the heart of the technological evolution and IMC-24 bringing together global leaders, visionaries, pioneers, and innovators to collaborate and actively shape the technologies transforming our world today, where the future isn't just a concept, it's happening. IMC-24 aims to showcase more than 800 technology use case scenarios, host 100+ sessions and talks by more than 600 speakers. The prestigious IMC-24 is also expecting over 400 exhibitors, 640 startups and many more to participate and display their products, solutions, and use cases to more than 150,000 attendees, including delegates from 120+ countries. The event was attended by Shri T. R. Dada, Chairperson, IAFI, Shri N. K. Goyal, Vice Chairman and Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI among many dignitaries. The IMC-24 APP and the IMC-24 website was also launched by Shri Jyotiradiya M. Scindia. The App is also available on Google Play Store and Apple App Store. The registrations are also accessible through the interactive application. The intuitive app combines cutting-edge AI technology with user-friendly features to help the visitors make the most of every moment at the forum. The Indian Mobile Congress also announced the opening of the registrations for Delegates, Visitors, Academia/College, Government and Media. Minister of Communications called IMC as a global meeting point and hoped to see India in the centre of such events for the time to come. He said that the theme 'Future is Now' represents both our capabilities, our achievements, and the possibilities of the future. India has transitioned from being a consumer of technology to now being a supplier of technology.

Government to notify rules under the New Telecom Act: Telecom Minister Shri Jyotiradiya Scindia during the launch of the theme of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024, announced that the government will notify the rules of the new Telecom Act in the next 150 days. He assured that within the deadline, each and every rule will be notified, so that all can walk down that path with complete confidence that the government stands by your side. The Minister further added that the fastest 5G rollout in the country has now been accompanied by a commitment towards 6G, for which we are in the process of getting ready. He said that the urgency for India to follow suit is underscored by the union minister further said that another area of achievement is production of telecom equipment, with 3400 crores worth of investment, Rs 50,000 crores worth of sales, and a ten and half thousand crores worth of exports and creation of almost 17,800 new jobs across India. Today the negative trade balance of telecom equipment has been narrowed down to Rs 4000 crore from 2014's, Rs 88,000 crore.

Open House Discussion (OHD) by TRAI: On April 4, 2024, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper seeking stakeholder feedback on the auction of spectrum in the 37.0-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40.0 GHz, and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands designated for IMT services. TRAI received a total of 127 comments, including one from the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI). To further engage stakeholders, TRAI conducted a virtual Open House Discussion (OHD) on July 10, 2024, from 11.15 AM to 12:20 PM. TRAI representatives included Chairman Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Secretary Shri Atul Kumar Dey, Principal Advisors (Network, Spectrum & Licensing) Shri Sheo Bhadr Singh and Shri Akhlesh Kumar Trivedi, Advisor (Network, Spectrum & Licensing-II) Shri D. Manoj, Principal Advisor (Finance) Shri Amit Sharma, and Advisor (Finance & Economic Analysis-II). While most stakeholders advocated for an immediate auction, Ms. Anjali Hans from VI (Vodafone) expressed a different view. Citing the lack of a mature ecosystem and the 37.0-43.5 GHz band, she proposed that TRAI should suggest postponing the auction process. Additionally, a few stakeholders suggested reserving some spectrum for Frequency Division Duplex (FDD) technology to support microwave backbone connectivity. In response to the feedback, the Chairman of TRAI agreed to extend the deadline for submitting valuable suggestions by seven days.

Meeting of SG-3 of ITU-T: The ITU-T Study Group -3 meeting on tariff and accounting principles, and international telecommunication/CT economic and policy issues, kicked off on July 9, 2024, and runs until July 18. During the plenary session, Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (IIJ) presented a Contribution (C-108) titled "Policy Considerations for Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOs)", co-edited by the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI). This contribution builds upon a previous iteration presented by IIJ at the SG-3RG-AO meeting from June 4-6, 2024. Backed by IAFI and suggesting edits in the various sections, the contribution also garnered support from the Telecom Centre of Excellence (TCECE) of India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and South Korea. Following acceptance of the modifications by the regional group, it was agreed to present the revised contribution at the current SG-3 meeting.

Unveiling the power of Wi-Fi in 6 GHz band: In a recent article titled "Unveiling the Power of Wi-Fi in the 6 GHz Band: A Quantum Leap in Wireless Connectivity," published by Communication Today magazine, IAFI President Shri Bharat Bhatia made a case for de-licensing the 6 GHz band in India. The article delves into various aspects of Wi-Fi 6E technology, highlighting its potential to revolutionize wireless connectivity in the country. Shri Bhatia meticulously explains how unlocking the 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi 6E deployment could be a game-changer. He emphasizes the enhanced Wi-Fi 6E, including increased spectrum efficiency, support for more devices, and benefited network performance in congested environments. Notably, several developed nations like the US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Singapore, and the UAE have already de-licensed the 5925-6425 MHz band for this purpose. The urgency for India to follow suit is underscored by the growing congestion in the currently used 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands. De-licensing the 6 GHz band is critical to prevent India from falling behind in technological advancement, hindering economic growth, and widening the digital divide. Shri Bhatia urged swift action, arguing that by de-licensing the 6 GHz band, India can position itself as a leader in wireless innovation and secure its digital future.

<https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/unveiling-the-power-of-wi-fi-in-the-6ghz-band-aquantum-leap-in-wireless-connectivity/>

Draft Right of Way (RoW) Rules: Following the enactment of the New Telecommunication Act, 2023, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released the "Draft Telecommunications Right of Way Rules, 2024" for public comment on July 12, 2024. The notification specifies a 30-day window for suggestions/feedback, after which the DoT will consider suggestions before finalizing the rules. Objections or comments can be submitted to the Joint Secretary (Telecom) at the DoT HQ, New Delhi. These draft rules aim to streamline the installation process for telecom infrastructure, like towers, cables, and small cells on both public and private land. Key improvements include:

- Simplified Permitting - The rules aim to make it easier to obtain permission for infrastructure installation.
- Compensation Framework - Service providers can establish a system for obtaining permission and offering compensation, particularly for using private property.
- Broadened Eligibility - Unlike previous regulations limited to licensees, any "facility provider," including contractors and subcontractors, can now apply for Right of Way (RoW) permissions.
- Cost-Effective Measures - The draft exempts underground network installations on public property from compensation requirements.

There will be no charge for setting up temporary above-ground installations in case of damaged underground infrastructure. Similarly, rates for using street furniture for small cell installations are set at Rs 300 annually in urban areas and Rs 150 in rural areas. These draft RoW rules, if implemented, are expected to significantly address the challenges faced by the telecom industry. Previously, navigating the diverse RoW regulations of various state governments created hurdles for infrastructure deployment. The streamlined and standardized approach proposed by the DoT has the potential to expedite network expansion and improve connectivity across the country.

46th WP-SD Meeting at Geneva, Switzerland: The 46th meeting of the WP5D was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 25th June to 02nd July, 2024. The meeting addressed 173 contributions, including four submitted by IAFI. A total of 535 delegates from various countries, including 20 from India, academia, industry organizations, United Nations and ITU representatives participated in the meeting. The entire work of the WP-5D was divided among three working groups: General Aspect, Technology Aspect, and Spectrum Aspect and WRC preparations. In the opening plenary, Chair WP-5D announced the formation of the WG Chairs and Vice-chairs of the WP-5D. It was also the vice-chairman of the World Wireless Research Forum (WVRF) for the Asia Pacific was appointed Chairman of the Working Group - General Aspects (WG-GA) of WP-5D/ITU-R. His group finalized and approved the first official document of IMT-2030, known as the IMT-2030 Key Issues document will now be [be] published on the ITU website as Document IMT-2030/I. The Key Issues discussed were Agenda Item -1.7 regarding sharing and compatibility analysis, utilizing proposed spectrum bands 4 GHz to 6 GHz, 7.125-8.400 MHz or parts thereof, and 14.8-15.35 GHz, recently allocated by WRC-23 for IMT in future and Agenda Item -1.13 (MSS) regarding technical aspects for the use and operation of TDD technology for direct connectivity between space stations and IMT user equipment (UE), using frequency arrangements used for terrestrial IMT systems in the frequency ranges 4 GHz to 6 GHz, 7.125-8.400 MHz and 12.7 GHz. Similarly, one more important issue was discussed in detail regarding defining the Technical Performance requirements (TPRs) for the capabilities of IMT-2030, which needed to be mapped with usage scenarios and test environments, as per ITU-R new recommendations M.2160. It was also decided that the next WP-5D will be held from 03rd Oct to 11th Oct, 2024 at Geneva, Switzerland.

Status of the two Consultation Papers issued by the DoT: 1. TRAI issued a consultation paper on 06th June, 2024 regarding the revision of the National Numbering Plan (NNP), covering all factors influencing the allocation and utilization of Telecommunication Identifier (TI) resources; seek comments and suggestions from industry stakeholders, service providers, and the general public by 25 October 2024, also in New Delhi. The document aims to ensure growth and efficiency of the telecom sector in India by addressing numbering constraints. Initially, last date of submission of comments was 04th July, 2024, but later extended till 01st Aug, 2024.

2. TRAI issued another consultation paper on 24th June, 2024 on the issues related to "Critical Services in the M2M Sector, and Transfer of Ownership of M2M SIMs". Last date of submission of comments is 22nd July, 2024.

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



- 1. 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](#)
- 2. 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 band, seeking comments from the stakeholders, for future 6G deployment and ensuring reliable and widespread 5G coverage in sectors like healthcare, robotics, and Industry 4.0. [Read More](#)
- 3. 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 India's developed telecom organizations to strengthen and accelerate connectivity, support the development of telecom and semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, thus India taking lead in 6G Technology ecosystem and services. [Read More](#)
- 4. IAFI urged the Telecom for urgently de-licensing the frequency band 5925-6425 MHz for the use of Wi-Fi to support India's local manufacturing innovation and exports make 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 de-licensed Wi-Fi 6E (5925-6425 MHz). [Read More](#)
- 5. 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 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](#)
- 6. DoT to resolve 5G coexistence with radio altimeters, start studies on CBRS; Official [Read More](#)
- 7. 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 guideline. 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](#)
- 8. In the 45th meeting of WP5D of the ITU-R in Geneva (January 31 to February 7, 2024), a proposal by IAFI 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](#)
- 9. 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 the 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](#)
- 10. 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 agenda of WTSA-24, review of existing resolutions, and proposals for new resolutions in the field of telecommunication standardization. [Read More](#)

UPCOMING EVENT

Organized by IAFI
ITU-APT Foundation of India
4th India Spectrum Management Conference
7-8 November 2024
New Delhi, India
Media Partner: #ISMC24

Links to our Activities & Programmes

- 1) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways Request for Industry consultation on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023
- 2) Letter to Secretary, Ministry of Power Request for Implementing Green Open Access Rules for the Telecom Sector in States/UTs
- 3) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of MTCE
- 4) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Devices under MTCE
- 5) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
- 6) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for Urgent Intervention in Equipment Theft Cases
- 7) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways, Government of India Request need for WRC-23 follow up actions on 6GHz Band-De-licensing of 5925-6425 MHz is key to support innovation and make in India
- 8) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Rationalization of Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) pertaining to Satellite Communications
- 9) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
- 10) 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 founded 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, 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 emphasized 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 Society which include: Training programs, seminars, workshops, etc. conducted by the foundation 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-R, 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 November 2023



IAFI circulated the meeting invitation to members for 33rd Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-33) from 9 to 13 September 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. The physical part will be conducted in the hybrid mode (remote participants can join via Zoom meeting while the physical participants will have desk microphones) and the breakout meetings will be conducted in the entirely virtual mode. (all participants join the meeting via Zoom meeting from their own PCs).

सत्यमेव जयते
Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India

Communication Minister Jyotiradiya Madhavara Scindia Thursday said that the government would notify all the existing rules of the Indian Telecommunications Act 2023 within the next 180 days. "We had a promulgation and a notification of the new Indian Telecom Act. New robust and modern act has been drafted forth, and notified late last month, and we commit to you that within next 180 days which is our deadline, we will notify each and every rule notified," telecom minister Jyotiradiya Scindia said, adding that, a move would boost industry's confidence. In June, the Centre notified as many as 39 provisions of the Indian Telecommunications Act 2023 that includes taking temporary possession of telecom networks in the interest of public safety or during emergencies, penalties on desk microphones and the breakout meetings will be conducted in the entirely virtual mode. (all participants join the meeting via Zoom meeting from their own PCs).

Related to Critical Services in the M2M Sector, and Transfer of Ownership of M2M SIMs in India, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India issued the National Telecom M2M Roadmap in May 2015. As per the roadmap, "IoT is connected network of embedded devices capable of having M2M communication without human intervention". In October 2023, the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), a technical body of the DoT, defined M2M in its technical paper as below: "M2M refers to the technologies that allow wired and wireless system to communicate with devices of the same ability. M2M uses a device (sensor, meter etc.) to capture an "event" (motion, meter reading, temperature, etc.), which is relayed through a network (wireless, wired or hybrid) to an application (software program), that translates the captured event into meaningful information". The Consultation Paper was examined and IAFI will submit its comments to TRAI soon.