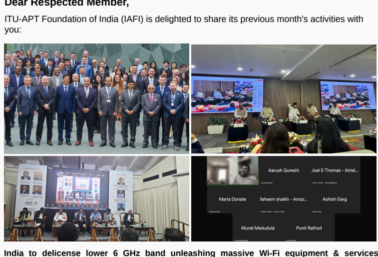
IAFI
ITU-APT Foundation of India
ITU's Association in India

May Highlights

Monthly News Summary

Dear Respected Member,

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



India to delicense lower 6 GHz band unleashing massive Wi-Fi equipment & services opportunity: In a recent interview with Mr. Claus Hetting, CEO & Chairman, Wi-Fi NOW, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI and a leading advocate for the new regulations, lauded the Government of India's decision to allocate the lower 6 GHz band for unlicensed operation. This landmark move was to set to unleash significantly improved connectivity for an estimated 150 million Indian homes and businesses within the next few years. India, the world's second most populous nation, has now poised to become the largest 6 GHz Wi-Fi market globally, with hundreds of millions of 6 GHz Wi-Fi routers and client devices expected to be deployed. Shri Bhatia emphasized that this decision represents an "enormous victory for connectivity in India." He highlighted India's unique high-density usage conditions, where user numbers per square meter often far exceed those in regions like Europe or the USA. The new 6 GHz band, he explained, will be crucial in delivering reliable Wi-Fi connectivity in such demanding environments. Furthermore, this opens up a substantial opportunity for both Indian businesses and overseas suppliers to provide 6 GHz equipment to millions of locations. He also credited the "Broadband India Forum" for their significant contribution to this positive outcome. https://wifinowglobal.com/news-blog/india-delicenses-lower-6-ghz- band-unleashes-massive-wi-fi-equipment-services-opportunity/

TRAI Consultation on Assignment of Microwave Spectrum: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper on May 28, 2025, inviting written comments from the stakeholders on the "Assignment of the Microwave Spectrum in 6 GHz (lower), 7 GHz, 13 GHz, 15 GHz, 18 GHz, 21 GHz Bands, E-Band, and V-Band", by June 25, 2025. This new consultation follows an earlier consultation paper issued by TRAI on September 27, 2023, concerning spectrum assignment in E&V Bands and Microwave Access (MWA) and Microwave Backbone (MWB) bands. Recommendations regarding the previous paper were put on hold due to the enactment of the new Telecommunication Act, 2023 by Indian Parliament. Consequently, TRAI referred the matter back to the DoT on February 20, 2024. DoT's current request to TRAI specifically seeks recommendations on:

- Spectrum charges and related terms for assigning spectrum in the 6 GHz (lower), 7 GHz, 13 GHz, 15 GHz, 18 GHz, and 21 GHz bands for backhaul in commercial telecom services.
- A review of the 7 GHz and 15 GHz bands, considering their potential use for Access using IMT after WRC-27.
- Demand assessment and scope of service/ usage for (i) 57-64/ 66 GHz (V-band) and (ii) 71-76 GHz/ 81-86 GHz (E-band).
- The quantum and specific bands to be earmarked for last-mile connectivity in both commercial and non-commercial/captive telecom services.

IAFI leads Global Effort to tackle Unauthorized non-GSO Satellite Earth Stations: ET Telecom in its edition dated 26th May, 2025 reported that during the ITU-R Working Parties 4A and 4C meeting at Shanghai, China, IAFI presented a detailed proposal to address unauthorized non- GSO earth station operations within the fixed-satellite service (FSS) and mobile-satellite service (MSS) segments. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI presented a comprehensive proposal on behalf of India and received strong support from participating member states and marked a significant step in global regulatory discussions ahead of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2027. The issue was also highlighted by Communication Today in its May 27, 2025 edition, which reported that IAFI took a leading role in representing India, in the WP-4A and 4C meeting, recently held at Shanghai, China. The proposals presented by Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI received strong supports from participating members, signaling a major advancement in global regulatory efforts.

TRAI released Telecom Subscription Data as on 30th April, 2025: TRAI released Telecom Subscription Data as on 30th April, 2025

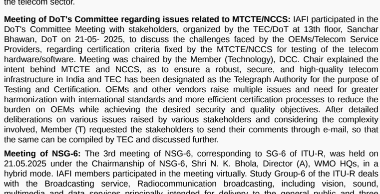
- Total Telephone Subscriber has crossed 1200 million marks and now reached to 1204 million.
- Total Broadband Subscribers has crossed 900 million marks and reached to 943 million.
- Total 5G FWA Subscribers has reached to 7.50 million.
- Total M2M Cellular Mobile Connection has reached to 70 million with Bharti Airtel share more than 53%.
- Quarterly Telecom Revenue QE- Dec, 2024 has reached to Rs 96,390 crore and Annual Telecom Revenue 2024-25 may reach to Rs 3,80,000/- crore.

IAFI achieves consensus with Industry stakeholders on draft India Preliminary views on all key agenda items of WRC-27: On May 22, 2025, the IAFI Radio Group convened a crucial meeting to discuss and finalize India's draft contributions for the upcoming 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2), slated to take place in Pattaya, Thailand, from July 28 to August 01, 2025. The meeting was held physically at the IAFI office, with many participants from both India and abroad joined virtually. Twenty draft contributions, intended for submission to NPC/DoT, for onward transmission to APG27-2 meeting on behalf of India were fully discussed and full consensus was achieved on all 20 draft contributions, and these are now being processed for submission to DOT.

World Telecom and Information Society Celebrations: On May 20, 2025, World Telecom and Information Society Day (WTISD) was celebrated at the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) New Delhi headquarters. This year's celebration centered on the globally significant theme of "Universal and Meaningful Connectivity (UMC)," a theme that resonates deeply with TRAI's core mission of ensuring inclusive, equitable, and sustainable access to communication services for all. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI was also invited for the participation in the event. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and Chairman, TRAI delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the Authority's critical contributions to shaping the telecom sector.

Meeting of DoT's Committee regarding issues related to MTCTE/NCCS: IAFI participated in the DoT's Committee Meeting with stakeholders, organized by the TEC/DoT at 13th floor, Sanchar Bhawan, DoT on 21-05- 2025, to discuss the challenges faced by the OEMs/Telecom Service Providers, regarding certification criteria fixed by the MTCTE/NCCS for testing of the telecom hardware/software. Meeting was chaired by the Member (Technology), DCC. Chair explained the intent behind MTCTE and NCCS, as to ensure a robust, secure, and high-quality telecom infrastructure in India and TEC has been designated as the Telegraph Authority for the purpose of Testing and Certification. OEMs and other vendors raise multiple issues and need for greater harmonization with international standards and more efficient certification processes to reduce the burden on OEMs while achieving the desired security and quality objectives. After detailed deliberations on various issues raised by various stakeholders and considering the complexity involved, Member (T) requested the stakeholders to send their comments through e-mail, so that the same can be compiled by TEC and discussed further.

Meeting of NSG-6: The 3rd meeting of NSG-6, corresponding to SG-6 of ITU-R, was held on 21.05.2025 under the Chairmanship of NSG-6, Shri N. K. Bhola, Director (A), WMO HQs, in a hybrid mode. IAFI members participated in the meeting virtually. Study Group-6 of the ITU-R deals with the Broadcasting service, Radiocommunication broadcasting, including vision, sound, multimedia and data services principally intended for delivery to the general public and three working parties WP-6A, 6B and 6C are functioning under SG-6. It was informed by the chair that during the last WP-6A, 6B, 6C meeting at ITU, India could not submit any contribution. Chair requested all participants to submit at least one or two contributions, so that India can actively participate in the future WP-6A, 6B and 6C meetings.



NCA-T webinar regarding Active Antenna Technology: IAFI members participated in a webinar organized by National Communication Academy -T Ghaziabad/ DoT on "Active Antenna Technologies for Mobile communication", held on 23-05-2025. The webinar was aimed to explore cutting-edge advancements in phased array antenna technology. Three guest speakers were invited - Dr. (Ms) Pranoti Bansode- Gaikwad, Assistant Professor, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Dr. Ekant Sharma, Assistant Professor, IIT Roorkee and Dr. Hanumantha Rao, Director General, SAMEER (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research) IIT Bombay. Main focus of the webinar was to explain the participants regarding the importance of the phased array technology in 5G applications, especially the successful implementation of massive machine type communication (mMTC) and the extreme data throughput specified in the International Mobile Telecommunications-2020 (IMT- 2020 Standard).

Indian Government delicenses Low Power and Very Low Power Wi-Fi in Lower 6GHz (5925-6425 MHz): In a significant notification dated May 16, 2025, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issued rules exempting the operation of Low Power Indoor (LPI) and Very Low Power Outdoor (VLPO) Wireless Access Systems, including Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs), in the 5925-6425 MHz band from licensing requirements. Consequently, no authorization or frequency assignment will be needed for establishing, maintaining, working with, possessing, or dealing in wireless equipment operating within this lower 6 GHz band for these specific power categories. The draft rules are open for public feedback and suggestions until June 15, 2025.

The IAFI has been actively campaigning for the de-licensing of the 6 GHz band for the past two years, consistently raising this crucial matter across various platforms. This advocacy involved extensive correspondence with key government and regulatory bodies, including the PMO, the Minister of Communications, the Secretary and Telecom Members of the DCC/DoT, and TRAI. IAFI's persistent efforts towards this goal have now reached a significant stage with the DoT released the draft rules on May 16, 2025, for the unlicensed use of the lower 6 GHz band, which is currently open for public feedback.

The proposed rules specify that the unlicensed use will be applicable to Low Power Indoor (LPI) systems, Very Low Power Outdoor (VLPO) systems, on a non-interference, non-protection, and shared basis. The draft rules also outline specific technical parameters, including Maximum Power Spectral Density (PSD) as 5 dBm/MHz for LPI and -5 dBm/MHz for VLPO, Maximum Equivalent Isotropically Radiated Power (e.i.r.p.) - 30 dBm for LPI and 14 dBm for VLPO, Maximum Emission Bandwidth - 320 MHz for both LPI and VLPO and Maximum Out-of-Band Emissions as -27 dBm/MHz for both. In case of harmful interference with licensed systems, users of unlicensed devices may be directed to relocate, reduce power, or cease operations after due process.

De-licensing the 6 GHz band proved a pivotal step towards widespread adoption of advanced Wi-Fi technologies like Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7. These next-generation standards offer several key enhancements: significantly higher data throughput and faster speeds compared to previous generations; lower latency, crucial for real-time applications such as online gaming, video conferencing, and AR/VR; increased capacity, enabling seamless connectivity for more devices in dense environments; wider channels (up to 320 MHz, and contiguous spectrum of the 6 GHz band), leading to greater bandwidth and improved performance for demanding applications; and reduced congestion, as the less crowded 6 GHz spectrum minimizes interference, resulting in a more stable and reliable Wi-Fi experience.

https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/iafi-welcomes-the-government-of- indias-decision-to-delicense-lower-6-ghz-band/

Meeting of the Working Party 4A at Shanghai, China: The 56th meeting of ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP-4A) convened in Shanghai, China, from May 5 to 16, 2025. WP-4A focuses on the efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for the Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS) and Broadcasting-Satellite Service (BSS). Shri Bharat Bhatia (President, IAFI) represented the Indian delegation with in-person attendance, while several other IAFI members participated virtually.
The 56th WP-4A meeting addressed an unprecedented workload, with a total of 220 contributions under discussion. Furthermore, the 97th and 98th reports of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) meeting, along with the 32nd report of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) meeting, were presented and thoroughly examined. Two detailed reports from the Chairman of Study Group 4 were also presented and discussed.

Following extensive discussions, the various Working Groups developed 61 temporary documents, encompassing Working Documents, Work Plans, Liaison Statements (LS), and various reports. Chair, WP-4A3 attached a list of 11 candidate Working Document, where consensus could not be reached during the meeting. These documents will be further discussed at the next WP-4A meeting scheduled for October 2025. The details of the progress made by the individual Working Groups are as follows:

S. No. Working Group Documents Developed Draft Working Documents Draft Work Plan Draft LS/LS/Others

S. No.	Working Group	Documents Developed	Draft Working Documents	Draft Work Plan	Draft LS/LS/Others
1	AHG on Sat Comm and Tech Handbook	3	1	1	1
2	WG of Plenary	4	2	1	1
3	WG 4A1	17	12	2	3
4	WG 4A2	21	11	1	9
5	WG 4A3	16	14	1	1
Total		61	40 (including 11 candidate WD)	6	15 (7-LS & 8-others)

Several members proposed that future meetings of WP-4A, WP-4B, and WP- 4C should be held in Geneva, ensuring no overlap with Study Group 5 meetings. The Chair announced that the next WP-4A meeting is scheduled for Geneva, Switzerland, from October 27 to November 6, 2025. The next WP- 4C meeting will take place from October 15 to 24, 2025, and the WP-4B meeting will be held from October 22 to 28, 2025. All these meetings are planned to be in Geneva.

Press release by IAFI regarding TRAI recommendation: The IAFI (ITU-APT Foundation of India) has released a press statement welcoming the recent recommendations from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding the allocation of spectrum for commercial satellite communication services, encompassing both geostationary (GSO) and non-geostationary (NGSO) systems. These landmark recommendations bring long-overdue clarity to a crucial regulatory gap and are poised to unlock the true potential of India's satellite communications sector. The press release highlights the importance of these recommendations in fostering the growth of India's satellite communications sector and ensuring a fair and level playing field for all stakeholders. IAFI commends TRAI's vision in ensuring a level playing field, fostering industry confidence, and promoting growth through fair, administratively guided processes. The recommendations are in line with global best practices and will serve as a major catalyst for next- generation connectivity across India, particularly in remote, rural, and underserved regions.
Welcoming the recommendations, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI stated that TRAI has demonstrated exemplary leadership in resolving a long- pending issue that had hampered the growth of satellite communications in India. These recommendations strike the right balance between fostering innovation, promoting competition, and protecting national interest. This clarity will accelerate investments in NGSO and GSO satellite systems and will be instrumental in bridging the digital divide, especially in remote and underserved areas.
https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/iafi-welcomes-trais-recommendations-on-satellite-spectrum-assignment/

World Telecom Day -17 th May, 2025: The 8th hybrid meeting of the NSG-4 was held on 08 April 2025, in the Spectrum Room, 6th Floor, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Ms. M Revathi, Joint Wireless Adviser, WPC Wing, to discuss and update the India's contributions to be submitted in the upcoming meeting of the WP-4A, likely to be held from 05-05-2025 to 16-05-2025 at Shanghai, China. All NWP chairs working under NSG-4 presented their inputs in the meeting.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) was observed globally on May 17, 2025, under the theme "Why Gender Equality in Digital Transformation Matters." This annual commemoration marks the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on May 17, 1865, and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention.

IAFI message on the WTISD was conveyed by Shri Satyen Gupta, Secretary General IAFI, in an event chaired by Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI in New Delhi and organized by IETE.

The 2025 theme specifically underscored the persistent and critical digital gender gap. Despite advancements, a significant portion of women and girls worldwide remain offline. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2025 acted as a powerful reminder of the fundamental importance of digital inclusion, particularly for women and girls, in building a more equitable and sustainable digital future for all.

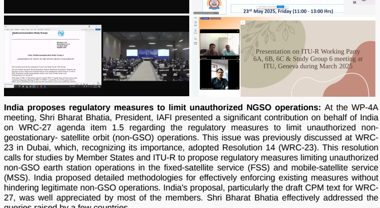
This year held particular significance as the ITU commemorated its 160th anniversary, reaffirming its enduring commitment to advancing global connectivity and fostering international cooperation in the digital realm. Marking both, its foundational date and a milestone anniversary, the day highlighted the ITU's continued role in shaping the future of telecommunications and information technologies for a more inclusive world.

In a message, Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, ITU, said that we have seen a great deal of progress in sixteen decades, with more people connected than ever before, yet one-third of humanity remains offline. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was a moment to reflect on the work still ahead. This year and every year, we need to ensure that everyone, especially women and girls, benefits fully from the opportunities brought by technology.

Bharti Airtel aims to have 50% women in its workforce: Bharti Airtel has reaffirmed its long-term commitment to gender diversity, with a vision to achieve 50 percent women representation across its workforce, according to the company's Chief People Officer (CPO), Ms Amrita Padda. The current representation stands at around 18.5 percent, a marked improvement from under 10 percent a few years ago. As part of its efforts to boost gender parity, Airtel has revamped its campus hiring programme, now engaging with nearly 100 institutions across 18 states and 30 cities. This includes women-only and non-traditional colleges, helping the company achieve over 60 percent women representation in its campus intake, according to the report.

Meeting of the Working Party-4A at Shanghai, China: The 56th meeting of ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP-4A) held at Shanghai, China, from May 2nd to 16th, 2025. Shri Bharat Bhatia (President, IAFI) has attended the conference in person as part of the Indian delegation, with several other IAFI members participating virtually.

WP-4A handled highest workload for the meeting, as total 220 contributions were discussed in the meeting. In addition, 97 th and 98 th report of RRB meeting and 32 nd RAG meeting report was also presented and thoroughly discussed in the meeting. Similarly, two detailed reports sent by the Chair, SG-4 were also presented and discussed in the meeting. To manage this workload, WP-4A's tasks were primarily divided among three main Working Groups: 4A1, 4A2, and 4A3. Based on the technical complexity of the documents, the 45 documents assigned to WG-4A1 were further organized into six sub-working groups. Similarly, the 72 documents allocated to WG-4A2 were subdivided into four sub-working groups, and the 63 documents designated for WG-4A3 were divided into three sub-working groups. The remaining documents were allocated to the plenary, the Ad hoc group for R- 74, and the Handbook on Satellite Communication. Notably, Working Group 4A3c faced the most substantial workload, managing 39 documents encompassing crucial issues such as AI 7 and other regulatory matters. Consequently, the first week of WP-4A proved to be exceptionally hectic, often necessitating additional sessions to complete the assigned task.



India proposes regulatory measures to limit unauthorized NGSO operations: At the WP-4A meeting, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI presented a significant contribution on behalf of India on WRC-27 agenda item 1.5 regarding the regulatory measures to limit unauthorized non-geostationary- satellite orbit (non-GSO) operations. This issue was previously discussed at WRC-23 in Dubai, which, recognizing its importance, adopted Resolution 14 (WRC-23). This resolution calls for studies by Member States and ITU-R to propose regulatory measures limiting unauthorized non-GSO earth station operations in the fixed-satellite service (FSS) and mobile-satellite service (MSS). India proposed detailed methodologies for effectively enforcing existing measures without hindering legitimate non-GSO operations. India's proposal, particularly the draft CPM text for WRC-27, was well appreciated by most of the members. Shri Bharat Bhatia effectively addressed the queries raised by a few countries.

4th meeting of TEC regarding Satellite based IoT solutions: The Telecommunications Engineering Centre (TEC) organized its 4th virtual meeting of the working group on Satellite-based IoT solutions on May 7, 2025. Due to the absence of the Chair, Shri R.S. Singh, DDG (IoT), TEC, the meeting was managed by the Director (IoT), TEC. Many IAFI members attended the meeting virtually. During the meeting, one company presented a document on the regulatory landscape for satellite IoT services in seven countries, where approvals have been granted. Additionally, an Indian company outlined its three-year plan to launch LEO satellites, install gateway equipment, and offer IoT services. IAFI also submitted one contribution regarding comparison between 3GPP NB-IoT (Release-17+) and LoRaWAN IoT technology. As contribution was submitted late, it could not be considered in the meeting.

India's Preliminary views for 2nd meeting of APT (APG27-2) on WRC- 27Agenda Items: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2) was scheduled to be held from 28 July to 1 August 2025 in Pattaya, Thailand. The meeting will be organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) as a physical meeting with remote participation. The objectives of the 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2) are as follows:

- to finalise appointment of drafting group chairs for individual WRC-27 Agenda items
- to arrange briefing sessions on WRC-27 agenda items
- to consider the progress in ITU-R Study Groups in relation to WRC-27 Agenda items, and take necessary actions as appropriate
- to develop APT preliminary views on WRC-27 Agenda Items based on input contributions from APT Members
- to review the activities of other regional organisations, in particular, their preliminary views/positions with a view to fostering inter-regional cooperation
- to review of issues related to RA-27 and develop preliminary views of APT, if any.
- IAFI has developed India's preliminary views, as input contribution on 20 WRC-27 Agenda Items - 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15, 1.16, 1.17, 1.18, 1.19, and 8 for consideration by the upcoming APG-27-2 meeting in July/August 2025, with the aim of contributing to the development of APT preliminary views.

IAFI held a meeting on Thursday, 22 nd May 2025 to deliberate and finalize these documents.

TRAI recommendations on Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite-Based Commercial Communication Services: TRAI released its long-awaited recommendations on the "Terms and Conditions for the Assignment of Spectrum for Certain Satellite-Based Commercial Communication Services" on May 9th, 2025. The issue, initially referred by DoT to TRAI on September 13th, 2021, involved several clarifications and a consultation process that included a paper released on April 6th, 2023, and an online Open House Discussion on July 14th, 2023. Following the enactment of the Telecommunication Act, 2023, in December 2023, TRAI re-referred the matter to DoT on February 8th, 2024, for further clarification. Subsequently, TRAI issued another Consultation Paper on September 27th, 2024, followed by an open-house discussion on November 8th, 2024. After a thorough examination, TRAI has now released its recommendations on May 9th, 2025.

Meeting of the Working Party-4C at Shanghai, China: The 33rd meeting of Working Party 4C (WP-4C) took place in Shanghai, China, from April 23rd to May 2nd, 2025. WP-4C, under Study Group 4 of ITU-R, addresses the efficient use of orbit and spectrum for the Mobile- Satellite Service (MSS) and Radiodetermination-Satellite Service (RDSS). The Indian delegation included Shri Bharat Bhatia (President, IAFI), Shri Jitendra Singh (Vice Chairman, IAFI), and Shri Sendil Kumar Devar (corporate member, IAFI), who attended in person, along with numerous other IAFI members participating virtually. The intensive meeting considered 150 contributions and divided its work into two working groups: WG-4C1 (for Agenda Items 1.12, 1.13, and 1.14) and WG-4C2 (for Agenda Items 1.11, RNSS matters, other MSS matters, and Agenda Item 1.7).

WG-4C1 Activities:

- Agenda Item 1.13 (DC-MSS-IMT): This attracted significant interest, receiving a record 53 input contributions. To manage this volume, two Drafting Groups were formed: DG (Sharing) and DG (Concept). DG (Sharing), handling 45 contributions through numerous lengthy meetings and extensive email exchanges, produced seven documents for future consideration.
- Agenda Item 1.12: This item received 7 Liaison Statements (LS) and 10 input contributions, all discussed across eight meetings. Four late contributions, including one from India, could not be addressed due to time limitations.
- Agenda Item 1.14: Only one document was received for this item.

WG-4C2 Activities:

- Agenda Item 1.7: Eight contributions were discussed across ten meetings to finalize protection criteria.
- Agenda Item 1.11: The meeting addressed 21 documents, resulting in 4 output documents.
- RNSS Matters: Discussions on 18 input contributions and 4 LS led to significant progress, with the development of 9 output documents and responses to the 4 LS.
- Other MSS Matters (AI-1.1, 1.5, 1.15, 1.16, 1.18): 18 input documents were received.

India delegation physically attending the meeting supported the Indian positions on agenda item 1.7 and 1.13 with continuous interventions and achieved a very positive IMT outcome for agenda 1.7. for agenda item 1.13, India's positions, particularly on 800 MHz and 2.5 GHz bands have been fully reflected in the working document

The next WP-4C meeting is scheduled for October 15th to 24th, 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland. Due to a two-day overlap with the WP-5D meeting (October 7th to 16th, 2025), the Chairman proposed a joint meeting of WP- 4C and WP-5D. However, no consensus was reached on this proposal.

SATRC workshop at Dhaka, Bangladesh: The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organized the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC) Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services from 28 to 30 April 2025 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The workshop was hosted by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). The SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services was a part of the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase IX (SAP-IX) for 2024-2025 which was approved by the 24th SATRC Meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2023. The workshop focused on key topics including navigating regulatory challenges in broadband, using the Universal Service Obligation Fund for digital inclusion, advancing ICT e-waste management, tackling online scams and financial fraud, shaping future tariff policies amid network convergence, and sharing case studies on IoT, Big Data, and smart city technologies in SATRC countries.

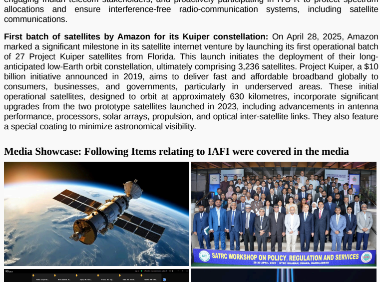
The objective of this workshop was to share insights, experiences, best practices as well as engage in dialogue to identify the challenges, opportunities, and possible way forward on the work items under the SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services for SAP-IX in order to have better understanding on those issues.

Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI was invited as a guest speaker and delivered his lecture on the subject "Navigating Regulatory Challenges in the Era of Emerging Technologies for Fixed and Mobile Broadband" from Shanghai, China. Shri Bhatia focused on issues regarding the impact of emerging technologies on broadband connectivity, promoting affordability and equitable access for all and to develop and implement effective regulatory frameworks.

Shri Bharat Bhatia lecture at NCA-T: Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, was invited as a guest speaker at the National Communication Academy for Telecom (NCA-T), DoT, ALTTC Campus, Ghaziabad. During the "Common Induction Training Module" held from April 28th to May 2nd, 2025, for 55 ITS and 4 IP&TAFS Group A officers of DoT, Shri Bhatia delivered a lecture on April 29th, 2025, on "Promoting Interest of India in ITU." Delivering the talk remotely from Shanghai, China, where he was attending WP-4C, 4B, and 4A meetings as part of the Indian delegation, Shri Bhatia explained in detail, the working mechanisms of the ITU across its three sectors: ITU-R, ITU-T, and ITU-D. He further detailed various strategies for safeguarding India's interests within the ITU, emphasizing active participation in ITU meetings, contributing expertise, securing leadership roles, engaging Indian telecom stakeholders, and proactively participating in ITU-R to protect spectrum allocations and ensure interference-free radio-communication systems, including satellite communications.

First batch of satellites by Amazon for its Kuiper constellation: On April 28, 2025, Amazon marked a significant milestone in its satellite internet venture by launching its first operational batch of 27 Project Kuiper satellites from Florida. This launch initiates the deployment of their long-anticipated low-Earth orbit constellation, ultimately comprising 3,236 satellites. Project Kuiper, a $10 billion initiative announced in 2019, aims to deliver fast and affordable broadband globally to consumers, businesses, and governments, particularly in underserved areas. These initial operational satellites, designed to orbit at approximately 630 kilometres, incorporate significant upgrades from the two prototype satellites launched in 2023, including advancements in antenna performance, processors, solar arrays, propulsion, and optical inter-satellite links. They also feature a special coating to minimize astronomical visibility.

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



1. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) applauds the Government of India for delicensing the lower 6 GHz band (5925–6425 MHz), a transformative move that enables next-gen Wi-Fi technologies like Wi-Fi 6E and 7. This step will accelerate affordable broadband access, especially in rural areas, and bolster initiatives like PM-WANI and BharatNet. The decision unlocks new opportunities for digital innovation, local manufacturing, and economic growth, aligning India with over 100 nations embracing unli Read More
2. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) welcomes TRAI's progressive recommendations on spectrum assignment for satellite communications, released in May 2025. These long-awaited guidelines provide clarity on spectrum use across key frequency bands for both GSO and NGSO systems, aligning with India's NFAP 2022. IAFI commends TRAI's balanced approach, which fosters industry growth, promotes digital inclusion, and supports rural connectivity. The recommendations pave the way for investment, innovati Read More
3. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has formally appealed to the Hon'ble Minister of Communications to delicense the 5925–6425 MHz band (Lower 6 GHz) to support high-speed Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7 connectivity. The request follows the government's recent move to open new spectrum bands for mobile services, and highlights the urgent need to complement this with unlicensed spectrum for next-generation Wi-Fi. Globally adopted in over 100 countries, the lower 6 GHz band is vital for India's digital t Read More
4. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) held its 2nd Preparatory Workshop for WRC-27 on April 7, 2025, in New Delhi. The event saw participation from over 150 government officials, industry leaders, and experts across the telecom and satellite sectors. Supported by DoT, WPC, and leading organizations like ISRO, Qualcomm, Ericsson, OneWeb, GSMA, IN-SPACe, Bharat 6G Alliance, and GSOA, the workshop featured in-depth deliberations on key WRC-27 agenda items including 6G and satellite spectrum polici Read More
5. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) supported the 53rd Wireless World Research Forum (WWRF) conference, hosted by BITS Pilani Hyderabad from February 18-20, 2025. Focused on "Smart Wireless Systems for Collective Prosperity in a Green Future," the event brought together global experts, researchers, and industry leaders to explore advancements in 6G, AI, IoT, and sustainable communications. Shri Bharat Bhatia, Vice Chair of WWRF & President of IAFI, emphasized the role of next-gen wireless tec Read More
6. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has urged the Ministry of Communications to expedite spectrum allocation for satellite services, emphasizing the need for regulatory clarity to advance India's digital connectivity goals. With rapid advancements in satellite technologies like LEO and MEO constellations, delays in approvals are hindering efforts to bridge the digital divide. IAFI highlights the importance of integrating satellite and terrestrial networks to drive innovation and economic grow Read More
7. 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
8. 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
9. 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
10. 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
11. 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
12. 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

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 Urgent Need for Delicensing the 5925–6425 MHz Band to Support Innovation and Make in India

2) Letter to Wireless Advisor to the Government of India, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India , Shri V J Christopher for Request for Consideration of Allowing Lower Size Antennas less than 1.2 M in the Lower Ku-Band (13.75-14 GHz)

3) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Spectrum Allocation for 6G in India

4) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Urgent Need for Spectrum Assignment and Regulatory Clarity for Satellite Services

5) 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

6) Letter to Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Shri P K Mishra for PMO Support needed for Innovation and Local Manufacturing

7) 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.

8) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways Request for Industry consultation on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023

9) Letter to Secretary, Ministry of Power Request for Implementing Green Open Access Rules for the Telecom Sector in States/UTs

10) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of MTCTE

11) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Devices under MTCTE

12) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services

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 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 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

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Activities in our focus areas during August 2024

Every year on 17 May, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) marks a rich history of collaboration in the fast-paced field of technology – from the telegraph to quantum. ITU was founded back in 1865 to standardize international telegraph exchanges across Europe. It grew rapidly, expanded its mandate to coordinate radio and telephone communications, and in 1947 became a specialized agency of the United Nations. But even today, as digital and space-based services surge, the organization remains true to its core mandate: fostering global cooperation to bring the benefits of communication technologies to all the people of the world.

IAFI circulated the meeting invitation to members to register and attend the 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-4) from 14 to 18 July 2025 at Pullman Pattaya Hotel G in Pattaya, Thailand, with physical attendance as well as virtual/online participation through zoom meeting platform (i.e., hybrid meeting). APT WTDC25-4 will continue the discussion on issues of interest to the region for the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25), scheduled to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025, and develop Preliminary APT Common Proposals for WTDC-25.

सत्यमेव जयते
Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India

The Department of Telecommunications is set to start charging telecom companies for the use of high-frequency radio bands—airwaves that are critical for transmitting internet and call data between mobile towers.

A High-frequency bands—such as 6 GHz, 7 GHz, 13 GHz, 15 GHz, and 21 GHz—are currently being used by telecom operators like Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea, primarily for tower-to-tower communication, also known as backhaul. These microwave links form the backbone of India's mobile and internet connectivity, carrying call and data traffic between telecom towers. So far, operators have used these bands without paying any direct fee, except for a nominal Spectrum Usage Charge. However, the government is now moving to monetise this infrastructure, the people said.

TRAI Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

From prescribing coordination distance between two satellite earth station gateways operating on the same frequencies to creating a framework for sharing spectrum, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has left a series of key technical conditions for satellite communication to the Department of Telecommunication (DoT). Most important among this is TRAI's recommendation that the DoT's Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) should examine the need for prescribing the framework for the sharing of spectrum. The government would have to clarify the rules for spectrum sharing for operators to begin the service. TRAI has allowed space spectrum across the C, Ku, and Ka bands to be used in India, to be assigned on a shared basis.

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ITU-APT Foundation Of India 504, Fifth Floor World Trade Center (Behind Lalit Hotel) Barakhamba Road New Delhi- 110001, India.
Contact No.: +91-11-45005163, 7017210403, 9999797700 - Web: iafi.in
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