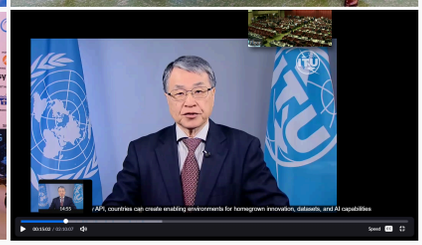
IAFI
ITU-APT Foundation of India
ITU's Association in India

May Newsletter

Monthly News Summary

Dear Respected Member,

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



Working Party - 5D Meeting: The 52nd meeting of the ITU-R Working Party 5D (WP 5D) commenced in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 27, 2026, in a hybrid format and will continue until June 5, 2026. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI (Chairman of Working Group General Aspects) and Shri Jitendra Singh, Vice Chairman, IAFI (Chairman of Sub Working Group Specific Applications), Mr. Sendil Kumar Devar from Ericsson (Chairman of Drafting Group Evaluation), and Dr. Punit Rathod from Qualcomm (Chairman of Drafting Group WRC-27 Agenda 1.7), participated in the meeting as delegates from Indian Administration physically, while several other members joined the meeting virtually. More than 200 documents were submitted for the meeting's consideration. WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.7 drew maximum attention, with 106 contributions submitted for consideration by Sub-Working Group 1.7 (SWG-1.7). IAFI submitted seven contributions, while India submitted six, bringing the total to 13 contributions.
The first week of the meeting focused heavily on sharing and compatibility studies for the various frequency bands assigned under Agenda Item 1.7. Key discussions also included finalizing the detailed evaluation methodologies, reviewing Technical Performance Requirements (TPRs), and establishing frameworks to ensure that 6G specifications meet the targeted capabilities. Furthermore, the group made progress on drafting templates and criteria for independent evaluation groups regarding the technology requirements for IMT-2030 (6G) Radio Interface Technologies (RITs).

IAFI Submits Draft India PVs: IAFI has submitted draft of India provisional views on all WRC-27 agenda items to the concerned working groups under WRC-27 National Preparatory Committee. These were based on the consensus drafts developed during the Last IAFI workshop on WRC-27:

- DRAFT INDIA PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON WRC-27 AGENDA ITEMS 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 & 1.6
- DRAFT INDIA PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON WRC-27 AGENDA ITEMS 1.7, 1.8, 1.9 & 1.10
- DRAFT INDIA PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON WRC-27 AGENDA ITEMS 1.11, 1.12, 1.13, & 1.14
- DRAFT INDIA PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON WRC-27 AGENDA ITEMS 1.15, 1.16, 1.17, & 1.18
- DRAFT INDIA PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON WRC-27 AGENDA ITEM 8
- Draft PVs on agenda items 7, 1.19 and 10 are still being developed and will be submitted next week.

National Working Group -3 (NWG-3) Meeting: IAFI attended the National Working Group-3, corresponding to the International Telecommunication Union - Telecommunication Standardization Sector Study Group-3, meeting held on 29.05.2026 (Friday) at 12:00 Hrs at the Committee Room, Second Floor, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, in a hybrid mode. The meeting was chaired by the Member (Finance), Digital Communications Commission and convened by Shri Sathish M.C., Director and Vice-Chair cum Convener, National Working Group-3. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss the preparation for the upcoming ITU-T SG3 meeting in July 2026 and submission of contribution by India, also seeking volunteers from the Indian Posts and Telecommunications Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TAFS) officers.

Ad hoc Meeting on WRC-27 agenda Item 1.19: Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI convened the NPC WG4 Ad hoc meeting to reconcile the draft India proposals on WRC-27 Agenda item 1.19 between IAFI and NCRA. Based on the discussions, agreed draft has been submitted to WPC's NPC WG4 for further consideration.

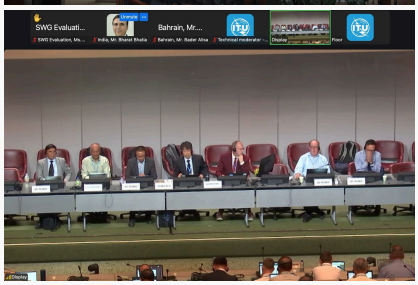
TRAI deferred the OHD regarding TCCCPR-2018 to 03-06-2026: TRAI has rescheduled the Open House Discussion (OHD) on Draft Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026, which was scheduled to be held on May 26th, 2026 through video conference, to June 3rd, 2026 due to administrative reasons. TRAI has invited interested stakeholders/ industry representatives to participate in the Open House Discussion and willing person may register themselves on the TRAI's website on the OHD notification.

Extension of last date of submission of comments on V2X till 04-06-2026: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a consultation paper on the Regulatory Framework for Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Communication on 30.04.2026 and the last date for the submission of written comments on the issues raised in the consultation paper from stakeholders was fixed as 28.05.2026 and counter-comments by 11.06.2026. Keeping in view the requests of a few stakeholders for an extension of time for submission of comments, TRAI decided to extend the last date for submission of written comments and counter comments up to 04.06.2026 and 18.06.2026 respectively.

NCA-T Webinar on AI-Driven Mobile Radio Access Networks (RAN): IAFI participated in a webinar organized by the NCA-T, DoT, Ghaziabad, aims to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and Generative AI in Mobile Radio Access Networks (RAN) for 5G Advanced and emerging 6G networks. It covered the key concepts, architectures, and AI-driven approaches for intelligent RAN automation, optimization, and resource management. The webinar further highlighted the application of AI/ML in Open RAN ecosystems, including intelligent RAN controllers, traffic prediction, energy efficiency, beam-forming optimization, interference mitigation, and self-organizing network capabilities. The technical sessions featured detailed insights into upcoming network technologies and core deployment challenges from industry and academic veterans - Dr. Sameer Gundurao Kulkarni, Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Gandhinagar, highlighted the architectural evolution toward AI-native networks and Sh. Sandeep Saini, expert in RAN Architecture at Ericsson, delivered deep operational perspectives on telecommunication radio network solutions, business development, and real-world 5G/6G evolution.

DoT organized Second Meeting of the BRICS Working Group for Cooperation in ICTs: Under India's 2026 BRICS Presidency, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) successfully hosted and led the Second Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Held virtually on May 21, 2026, the summit gathered senior officials and representatives from member nations to deepen sector-wide collaboration. Guided by India's overarching BRICS theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," and the ICT-specific theme, "Innovate, Cooperate and Transform (ICT) for a Resilient Future," the discussions centered on advancing Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), future networks, and innovation ecosystems. Ultimately, the meeting reinforced a shared commitment to leveraging digital technologies and capacity building to drive inclusive, sustainable socio-economic growth across the BRICS nations.

ITU Space Connect Series on the Future of Space Communications: On May 19, 2026, IAFI participated in the Episode -4 of the ITU Space Connect Series, titled "Beyond the Horizon: Framing the Future of Space Communications." Moderated by Ms. Patricia Cooper, the webinar featured leading experts from the ITU's Academic Advisory Body (AAB) Space Thematic Group, including Dr. Scott Pace, Dr. Tanja Masson-Zwaan, and Dr. Guifei Jing. The forward-looking panel tackled breakthrough concepts shaping global connectivity, spectrum management, and standardization. Key topics explored included the creation of a Solar System Internet, defining Coordinated Lunar Time, quantum-secure space communications, and leveraging Artificial Intelligence to expand Earth observation data. The session provided crucial insights into how these rapid technological innovations will impact regulators, policymakers, and the broader space industry in the coming years.



APT hosts SATRC spectrum group meeting in Bhutan: The Bhutanese regulator BICMA hosted the APT SATRC-2026 on 20-21 May 2026. The event was attended by IAFI member Dr. Sendil Kumar from Ericsson and Mr. Ashish Garg (he/him) from GSMA. The event provided an amazing experience to be in #Bhutan and a memorable hospitality by #BICMA to share industry views on the ongoing critical topics of spectrum towards #6G and the momentum of #D2D Direct to Device from Satellites in IMT band - #WRC27 Agenda Item #1.13.

IAFI Participates in DoT Webinar on Satellite Communication and Navigation: On May 20, 2026, the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) participated in a webinar hosted by the National Communication Academy (Telecom) under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The session provided a comprehensive overview of Satellite Communication (Satcom) and Navigation (Satnav) technologies, focusing on emerging trends, Quality of Service (QoS), and practical applications across sectors like disaster management, transportation, and digital connectivity. Expert presentations were delivered by Sh. Prafulla Kumar (VP Tech & Product Head, Satcom, RJIO), alongside Dr. Chandra Prakash and Shri Jayesh Thakkar (both Scientist-G, ISRO). The webinar aimed to bring together expert insights from the space and telecom sectors to enhance awareness of technological advancements, practical use cases, and the growing integration of satellite technologies in national development. Additionally, the event offered valuable career guidance on the evolving skill requirements in the space and telecom domains, empowering professionals and students to make future-ready career choices.

11th NSG-6 Meeting Held to Prepare for Upcoming ITU-R SG-6: IAFI participated in the 11th meeting of the National Study Group 6 (NSG-6), corresponding to ITU- R SG-6, held in a hybrid format on Thursday, May 21, 2026. The meeting was chaired by Shri N.K. Bhola, Wireless Advisor, and coordinated by Shri Manoj Gupta, EIC WMO HQ. In his welcoming remarks, Shri Bhola encouraged all members to actively participate and provide substantial contributions for the upcoming SG-6 meeting, scheduled for September–October 2026 in Geneva. During the session, the Rapporteur for NSG-6, Shri Prakash Kamble, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the key discussions, outcomes, and developments from the recent WP-6A, 6B, 6C, and SG-6 meetings held in Geneva in March 2026. Additionally, Shri Rajeev Kumar, DDG (Prasar Bharati), gave a detailed presentation outlining critical issues and potential areas for submitting contributions at the upcoming SG-6 meeting. He informed the group that the IAFI contribution regarding the revision of Report ITU-R BT.2049-8 ("Broadcasting of multimedia and data applications for mobile reception") was successfully presented at the last WP-6B meeting as Contribution-164. Members also noted that a Working Document exists for the revision of Report ITU-R BT.2295-4 ("Digital terrestrial broadcasting systems"), suggesting that further updates could be drafted and submitted to WP-6A.

Bharat 6G 2026 International Conference and Exhibition: The 4th Edition of the Bharat 6G Conference and Exhibition concluded successfully on May 22, 2026. Organized by Bharat Exhibitions, the one-day event served as a premier platform for telecom industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, startups, and academia to deliberate on the critical roadmap transitioning from 5G to 6G. A major highlight of the event was the plenary panel address by Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI. Discussions focused heavily on the upcoming regulatory landscape, spectrum strategies, standardization efforts, and device ecosystem readiness. Aligned with the Government of India's core visions, including Digital India, Make in India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat, the conference aimed to drive widespread awareness of 6G's societal benefits across sectors like healthcare, agriculture, education, and manufacturing. By fostering deep collaboration across the tech ecosystem, India's 6G roadmap is actively positioning the nation to pioneer ultra-high-speed, secure, intelligent, and sustainable future networks.

India Secures ITU Council Approval to Host ITU Plenipotentiary Conference PP-2030: An Indian delegation led by Shri Mukesh Kumar, Deputy Director General (International Relations) at the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), successfully participated in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council 2026 meeting, held from April 28 to May 8, 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland. India formally presented a proposal to host the prestigious ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2030 (PP-2030). The ITU Council accepted the bid, marking a major milestone in India's growing role in shaping global digital policy discourse. The proposal is expected to receive formal approval at the upcoming ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26), scheduled for November 2026 in Doha, Qatar. It may be noted that the ITU Council acts as the governing body of the ITU and comprises 48 elected Member States. It meets annually in Geneva to oversee the organisation's strategy, policy, budget and financial control. India has been a member of the ITU Council since 1952.

Government and Law Enforcement Collaborate to Combat Telecom Fraud: Following the recent apprehension of 66 individuals tied to an extensive SIM card fraud ring by Hyderabad Police, Union Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani convened a virtual review meeting with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and local law enforcement. The high-level discussion was organized to analyze the recent bust and fortify the nation's telecom infrastructure against cybercriminal exploitation. The primary focus of the meeting was to bolster intelligence-sharing channels between police departments and telecom regulators. Authorities aim to establish robust, proactive regulatory measures that can intercept network misuse at the source, reducing the need for reactive enforcement. During the briefing, Hyderabad Police detailed the syndicate's modus operandi, explaining how rogue telecom vendors were conducting unauthorized SIM card regenerations. Additionally, officials highlighted that fraudsters were financially exploiting vulnerable citizens to acquire SIM cards registered in their names. These illegally obtained cards were then allegedly smuggled to international locations, like Dubai and Cambodia etc to serve as the operational backbone for cross- border cybercrimes.

Successful completion of the Working Party 4A Meeting: The ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP 4A) meeting, which commenced on May 4, 2026, successfully concluded on May 14, 2026. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of IAFI, and Shri Rajesh Mehrotra, EC member participated in person and represented the Indian administration, while several other IAFI members attended virtually. The meeting saw a record attendance of 842 physical and virtual participants and featured extensive discussions on a total of 233 technical contributions. Working Party 4A plays a critical role in global telecommunications, bearing responsibility for the efficient utilization of orbit and spectrum resources for the fixed-satellite service (FSS) and broadcasting-satellite service (BSS). The outcomes of this session were instrumental in laying the groundwork for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference in 2027 (WRC-27). Main focal points of the discussion included most controversial WRC-27 Agenda Items 1.2, 1.5 and 7. Actively representing the interests of both the region and the broader satellite communications industry, IAFI contributions on Agenda items 1.2 and the Indian contribution on 1.5 to update the draft Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) text supported key regulatory reforms. Discussions on article 4.4 as a topic under agenda item 7 emerged as another core focus of the discussions during the final plenary which went on till 9PM on the final closing day on Thursday. The successful wrap-up of the WP 4A meeting marks another milestone in the ITU's rigorous preparatory process. IAFI remains dedicated to active participation in upcoming satellite and IMT related ITU meetings, continuing to advocate for policies that promote digital inclusion, robust public infrastructure, and the global advancement of telecommunications.

13 Contributions submitted from India for Working Party-5D meeting #52: The 52nd meeting of ITU-R Working Party 5D (WP 5D) meeting is scheduled to be held from May 27 to June 5, 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland, and will be conducted in a hybrid format. IAFI has submitted seven key contributions to this session, addressing critical developments in International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT):

- Report ITU-R M.2527: Application of IMT for societal, scientific, and industrial usage.
- Report ITU-R M.2528: Terrestrial component of IMT for multimedia applications.
- Report ITU-R M.2480: National approaches for the implementation of terrestrial IMT systems.
- Air-to-Ground (ATG): Systems for non-safety ATG communications using terrestrial IMT technologies.
- WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.13: Studies on regulatory considerations to protect terrestrial IMT systems.
- IMT-2030 Workshop: Preparations and technical requirements for the future of 6G (IMT-2030).
- Fixed Wireless Access (FWA): Technical and operational feasibility of providing wireless broadband access using IMT infrastructure.

In addition, India has submitted another 6 contributions:

- Updates to WRC-27 agenda item 1.7 summary of studies within individual attachments
- Towards the sharing and compatibility studies between fixed services and IMT systems in the frequency band 7 125-8 400 MHz under WRC-27 agenda item 1.7
- Towards the sharing and compatibility studies between fixed satellite service (Earth- to-space) and IMT systems in the frequency band 7 125-8 400 MHz under WRC-27 agenda item 1.7
- Proposal of text towards the working document towards a preliminary draft revision of Document IMT-2030/2 "Process" - Submission, evaluation process and consensus building for IMT-2030
- Proposal of text towards preliminary draft new Report ITU-R M.[IMT 2030.EVAL] - Guidelines for evaluation of radio interface technologies for IMT
- Proposal of text for the working document towards a preliminary draft new Report ITU-R M.[IMT-2030.SUBMISSION] - Requirements, evaluation criteria and submission templates for the development of IMT-2030

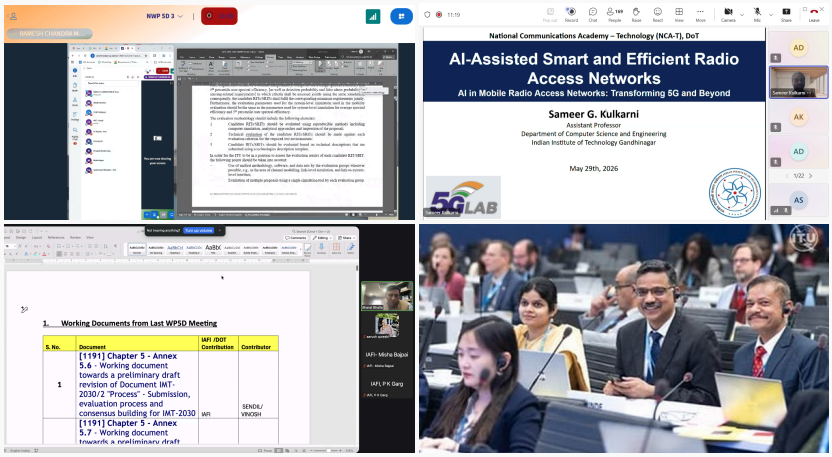
IAFI along with TEC participated in the ITU-T SG-20: IAFI, in collaboration with TEC/DoT, submitted a joint contribution proposing a new work item titled "Requirements for hybrid IoT network systems for digital agriculture in remote areas" (ITU-T Y.HybIoT- Agri). IAFI presented the contribution, which was subsequently discussed in detail. During the session, the Rapporteur of Question 11/20 (Q11/20) and other participating members raised several points for consideration. The initial proposal was accepted, leading to the creation of a Temporary Document (TD). The Chairman then directed that the document be resubmitted as a TD, incorporating all the feedback and modifications suggested both during the meeting and offline. The revised proposal was formally resubmitted, presented, and subjected to further detailed discussion. Two members requested additional modifications and a subsequent resubmission to ensure the final proposal could be fully accepted by the meeting. Final proposal will be submitted again for consideration of the meeting.

IAFI response to TRAI Consultation Paper regarding Satellite Communication Network: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper titled "Framework for Satellite Communication Network Authorisation and Assignment of Spectrum to Satellite Communication Network Providers." The initial deadlines for submitting comments and counter-comments were originally set for May 6 and May 20, 2026, respectively. Following formal requests from IAFI and other industry stakeholders, TRAI officially extended these deadlines to May 13 and May 27, 2026. After a comprehensive examination and extensive consultation with its industry partners, IAFI submitted a detailed response addressing all issues raised by TRAI on May 13, 2026.

Working Party 4A Meeting: IAFI is currently participating in the ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP 4A) meeting, taking place in a hybrid format from May 4 to May 14, 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland. A total of 230 documents have been presented during the session. WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.2 has drawn the highest number of contributions, while Article 22 and Agenda Item 1.5 have also received significant attention and engagement from delegates. During the meeting, IAFI presented a contribution proposing draft CPM Text for WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.2. This agenda item focuses on reviewing sharing conditions within the 13.75–14 GHz band, with the goal of enabling the operation of Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS) uplink earth stations utilizing smaller antenna sizes. Following the presentation and discussion of this contribution, the delegation from Singapore proposed merging the IAFI document with their own submission to collaboratively develop the draft CPM text. IAFI has formally agreed to this proposal. IAFI also intervened and supported India's position on agenda item 1.5

Extension of Last Date for Comments: TRAI Consultation Paper on Satellite Networks: On April 8, 2026, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper on the 'Framework for Satellite Communication Network Authorisation, and Assignment of Spectrum to Satellite Communication Network Providers.' The initial deadlines for submitting comments and counter-comments were May 6 and May 20, 2026, respectively. Following industry requests, TRAI has officially extended these deadlines to May 13 and May 27, 2026. In response, IAFI has drafted its comments addressing the key issues raised and has circulated the document to all members for their review and feedback prior to final submission.

National Study Group 5 meeting: IAFI participated in the NSG5 meeting, organized by the WPC wing of DoT 9th May in online mode under the chairmanship of Sh. Gulab Chand, JWA WPC Wing. The meeting considered 7 contribution documents recommended by NWP5D1 and NWP5D3 for consideration for forthcoming WP5D meeting in May-June 26 (Deadline is 15th May, 26). These documents were agreed and sent to WPC for further action.



National Working Party (NWP) 5D1 Convenes on WRC-27 Preparations: IAFI participated in the NWP-5D1 meeting, organized by the WPC wing of DoT on 05th May, 2026 from 1100-1200 Hrs. Meeting was Chaired by Ms Neha Upadhyay, Director, TEC. Regarding WRC- 27 Agenda Item 1.7 (IMT Spectrum), three contributions were jointly presented by Dr. Sendil Devar (Director of Standards and Spectrum, Ericsson) and Dr. Punit Rathod (Lead Technical Standards, Qualcomm). The proposals primarily focused on the potential usage of the 7125 – 8400 MHz frequency band for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT). Regarding WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.13 (DC- MSS-IMT), the IAFI submitted a proposal to allocate the frequency bands from 694/698 MHz to 2.7 GHz to the Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) on a secondary basis, specifically for the use of Direct-to- Cell (DC-MSS-IMT) systems. A representative from the Joint Communications and Electronics Staff (JCES), Defence HQ, formally advised the committee of the military's opposition to IMT provisioning in the 4 GHz and 7800 – 8400 MHz bands. The intervention cited the necessity of protecting critical, active defence equipment currently operating in these ranges. Following detailed discussions, all proposals were accepted by the meeting and will be forwarded to National Study Group 5 (NSG-5) for further consideration. It may be noted that NSG-5 virtual meeting will held on 09-05-2026.

15th Meeting of National Working Party (NWP) 5D3 focuses on IMT-2030: IAFI participated in the 15th meeting of the NWP 5D 3, convened on 6th May 2026 from 11 AM onwards in a virtual mode, to discuss and finalize the three documents for onward submission to NSG- 5. Shri R C Malik, DWA, WPC Wing was the coordinator and Prof Kiran Kuchi from IIT Hyderabad was the chair of the meeting. Three documents regarding IMT-2030 were discussed and all three were approved by the meeting. The documents will be submitted to the NSG-5 meeting, likely to be held on 09-05-2026 in a virtual mode.

Working Party (WP)-4B Meeting: IAFI participated in the 58th WP-4B meeting held from 29 April to 05 May, 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland in a hybrid mode. WO\P-4B deals with Systems, air interfaces, performance and availability objectives for FSS, BSS and MSS, including IP-based applications and satellite news gathering. Total 345 members participated in the meeting physically as well as virtually. Total 46 contributions were discussed in the meeting. Based on the working documents and contributions submitted during the session, the primary focus areas included - IMT-2030 (6G) Satellite Component: Significant progress was made on drafting a new report concerning the development and technology trends for the satellite component of IMT towards 2030 and beyond. This included evaluating frameworks, technical performance requirements, and evaluation methodologies for satellite radio interfaces of IMT-2030; Emergency Communications: Working groups progressed on a draft report covering the development and technology of emergency communications within the mobile-satellite service; Satellite IoT: Discussions continued regarding the technical and operational aspects of satellite Internet of Things (IoT) applications and Mobile-Satellite Service with On-Board Processing (MSS_OBP): The working party reviewed surveys of network architectures and assessed their impacts on performance objectives for MSS systems utilizing on-board

TRAI releases the Telecom Subscription Data for March, 2026: As per the TRAI report of March, 2026, total Wired Broadband Subscribers (DSL+LAN+ILL etc) are 47 Million, total Fixed Wireless Broadband Subscribers (5G FWA, Wi-Fi, Radio/UBR, Satellite etc) are 17 Million, and total Mobile Wireless Broadband Subscribers (Handset, Dongle, M2M-3G, 4G, 5G) etc) are 1002 Million, so the total Broadband Subscription is 1066 Million. Similarly, total Wireless Telephone Connections (Consumer SIM) are 1142 Million, total Wireless M2M SIM Connections are 124 Million, total Wireless FWA Connections are 17 Million and total Wireline Telephone Connection are 48 Million, so the total number of Telecom Subscribers are 1331 Million. India continues to hold its position as the second-largest telecommunications market globally, trailing only China in total subscriptions. Furthermore, the rapid deployment of advanced networks has firmly established India as the world's second-largest 5G and broadband market. The country also consistently ranks at the forefront of global mobile data consumption per user, a metric predominantly driven by the widespread adoption of video streaming, social media, and a robust digital payment infrastructure.

Read More: https://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/2026-04/Press%20Release%20March%202026%20English%20signed.pdf

WP-4C Meeting concluded – 01-05-2026: The 35th meeting of Working Party 4C (WP 4C), under Study Group 4 (SG 4) of the ITU-R, took place from 22 April to 01 May 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland, in a hybrid format. WP 4C is responsible for "Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for the mobile-satellite service (MSS) and the radio-determination- satellite-service (RDSS)." Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI attended the meeting physically, while several IAFI members participated in the meeting virtually. Two major issues (1) Sharing and Compatibility studies, to explore Direct Connectivity between Mobile-Satellite Services (MSS) and standard terrestrial IMT devices and (2) Drafting CPM Text for the WRC-27 Agenda Item-1.13, drew maximum attention of the members. WP 4C consists of two working groups: WG 4C1 and WG 4C2. Out of total of 215 contributions, documents pertains to various Agenda Items; AI 1.11-19, AI 1.12 -28, AI 1.13 -104, AI 1.14-24 and AI 1.15-1. Maximum attention was drawn by the Sharing and compatibility studies regarding DC-MSS-IMT and incumbent services in the frequency band 694/698 - 2690 MHz. IAFI submitted a contribution to the Agenda Item-1.13 titled, “Updates to the Working Document draft CPM Text regarding Agenda Item 1.13” regarding allocation of frequency bands for DC-MSS- IMT in the 694 MHz to 2.69 GHz range. The document proposes draft preliminary text for the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for Agenda Item-1.13 for upcoming WRC-27. The next WP- 4C meeting will be held from 07 Oct to 16 Oct, 2026 at Geneva, Switzerland.

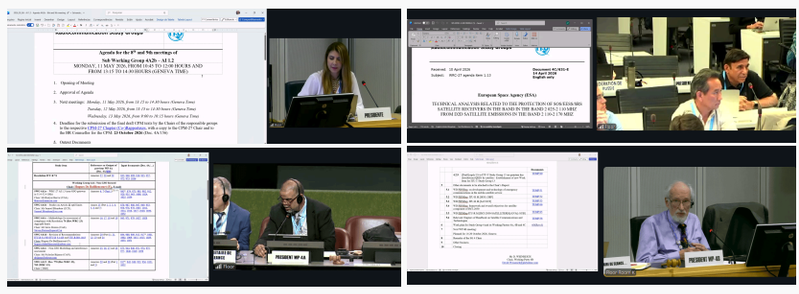
IAFI Radio Group Meeting for WP-5D -29-04-2026: The IAFI Radio Group meeting was held on April 29, 2026, to review and finalize contributions for the upcoming 52nd ITU-R WP-5D meeting, scheduled for May 25 to June 5, 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland. With strong remote participation from IAFI members, the group discussed seven key documents in detail, including a specific contribution regarding FWA-BB from HFCL. The seven contributions under review included (a) A joint proposal by IAFI and WWRF to organize a Workshop on IMT-2030 (6G) during the 54th WP-5D meeting in February 2027 (b) Updates to ITU- R M.2528 regarding Multimedia (c) Revisions to ITU-R M.2480 on National Approaches (d) Updates to ITU-R M.2527 regarding IMT use-cases (e) Inputs for WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.13 concerning Direct Connectivity (DC-MSS-IMT) (f) Developments in Air-to-Ground communications and (g) Further updates to the FWA-BB document. Following the discussions, members suggested additional refinements to several drafts. These updated documents will be presented at the next group meeting, anticipated next week, ensuring all final contributions are ready well ahead of the WP-5D submission deadline on May 15, 2026.

TRAI Releases Consultation Paper on “Proliferation of Public Wi-Fi Networks in India: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation Paper on 27 April, 2026 regarding the "Proliferation of Public Wi-Fi Networks in India" to review current regulatory frameworks and accelerate nationwide infrastructure growth. TRAI is seeking stakeholder feedback, with initial comments due by May 25, 2026, and counter-comments by June 8, 2026. The paper evaluates India's current Wi-Fi deployment and demand against global best practices. To overcome existing barriers, the consultation explores the collaborative roles of government bodies, internet service providers, and private entities in establishing viable public Wi-Fi models across rural, urban, and high-footfall areas. Furthermore, it comprehensively addresses technical and commercial frameworks, including authorization, seamless roaming allowing users to remain connected across different Wi-Fi providers without repetitive logins,, billing systems, and sustainable revenue models vital for the ecosystem's long-term success. TRAI notes that per-GB data costs on Wi-Fi are significantly lower

ITU Webinar regarding AI-Driven African Cities and Communities: IAFI participated in a webinar organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) on 27 April 2026, focused on AI-Driven African Cities and Communities. The event commenced with opening remarks from Mr. John Omo (Secretary-General, ATU) and Mr. Seizo Onoe (Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU). The session explored how AI-driven Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can create more efficient, inclusive, and resilient communities, as Africa’s cities move beyond AI experimentation toward coordinated, scalable, and responsible implementation. Discussions centered on transitioning from data collection to active decision-making, with speakers emphasizing four key areas: building AI-ready infrastructure that delivers tangible benefits to citizens; ensuring interoperability to prevent vendor lock-in through open approaches; utilizing standardization to translate technical standards into trusted, scalable solutions; and showcasing practical, real-world applications from African cities and governments.

TEC and IAFI submitted a contribution to SG-20 of ITU-T: TEC (DoT), in association with IAFI, submitted a contribution (C-593) proposing the creation of a new work item - ITU-T Y.HybIoT-Agri, "Requirements for hybrid IoT network systems for digital agriculture in remote areas" in Study Group 20 (SG-20) of the ITU-T. Agriculture remains a critical sector for global food security, rural livelihoods, and economic development, particularly in developing countries. Increasing climate variability, water scarcity, and the need for higher productivity are accelerating the adoption of digital technologies in agriculture. The emergence of the IoT has enabled precision agriculture through the real-time monitoring of soil, crops, livestock, and environmental conditions. Digital agriculture relies heavily on data acquisition from deployed sensor networks to drive crop growth monitoring, livestock tracking, and smart pest management. However, a significant standardization gap exists regarding agricultural deployments in remote, rural, and un-served or underserved areas, where terrestrial telecommunication infrastructure is often absent, unreliable, or economically unviable. The SG-20 meeting will take place from 12 May to 21 May 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland, in a hybrid format.

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



1. India's rising influence in global telecom standardisation was highlighted at the 36th Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Wireless Group (AWG-36) meeting held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam (April 6–10, 2026), where the country secured key leadership roles. Bharat B. Bhatia, President of the ITU-APT Foundation of India, was appointed Special Adviser to AWG (equivalent to Vice Chair), while Dr. Punit Rathod, Member of the ITU-APT Foundation of India and Lead – Technical Standards at Qualcomm Read More

2. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has recently urged the Department of Telecommunications to speed up in-principle approvals for NGSO (Non-Geostationary Orbit) satellite services, highlighting that delays—sometimes over a year—are slowing deployment and affecting India's competitiveness in satellite broadband. Shri Bharat B. Bhatia, President, IAFI, emphasized: "The industry momentum for satellite broadband in India is strong; however, delays in principal clearances are holding back progres Read More

3. The ITU-APT Foundation of India organized its third workshop on preparatory studies for the World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 on March 17, 2026, at Le Méridien New Delhi. The workshop convened around 100 participants from government, industry, academia, and international organizations to deliberate on key spectrum and satellite agenda items shaping future global radiocommunication policies.Addressing the session, Rudra Narayan Palai, Member (Technology), Department of Telecommunications, Read More

4. The ITU-APT Foundation of India hosted a high-level workshop in New Delhi on March 17, 2026, bringing together over 100 experts from government, industry, legal, and technology sectors to address the growing threat of cyber frauds and digital arrests. Delivering the welcome address, Bharat Bhatia, President IAFI, highlighted the alarming rise in scam calls and so-called "digital arrests," where fraudsters impersonate law enforcement agencies using advanced tools like voice cloning and deepfakes Read More

5. The ITU-APT Foundation of India welcomed the 24 Feb 2026 spectrum auction recommendations issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for 4G and 5G services. Bharat Bhatia, President IAFI, said the proposals signal a major shift from treating spectrum as short-term revenue to recognizing it as a foundation for India's long-term digital growth. Read More

6. IAFI has welcomed the Government of India's decision to delicence the lower 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi use, calling it a significant policy step to strengthen India's digital connectivity ecosystem. Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, said the move will complement the ongoing 5G rollout, enhance readiness for future 6G technologies, improve indoor broadband experience, and enable high-speed Wi-Fi in homes and offices—supporting the objectives of National Broadband Mission 2.0. Read More

7. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) highlighted spectrum challenges affecting India's 20,000-crore emergency response plan, particularly the difficulty of vacating the 800 MHz band for public safety networks. The issue was outlined by Mr. Bharat B. Bhatia, President, IAFI, as reported by Mint. IAFI continues to collaborate with policymakers and industry to enable robust and resilient emergency communications across India. These efforts are crucial to ensuring reliable broadband connectivity Read More

8. The 5th International Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC-25), organized by ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI), took place on December 15-16, 2025, at The Claridges, New Delhi. It was inaugurated by TRAI Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti and ITU Radiocommunication Bureau Director Mario Maniewicz, with IAFI President Bharat Bhatia welcoming global thought leaders. Discussions centered on India's spectrum policies, WRC-27 preparations, 6G IMT spectrum, satellite communications, AI-driven spectrum manage Read More

9. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) urges the government to swiftly delicense the lower 6 GHz band (5925–6425 MHz) to fuel India's leadership in AI, smart manufacturing, and immersive digital technologies. This spectrum supports next-generation Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7, offering ultra-fast speeds, low latency, and support for dense device connectivity essential for modern digital services. Aligning India with over 100 countries that have already delicensed this band, the move will accelerate digi Read More

10. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) supports auctioning the upper 6 GHz and 7 GHz bands for India's 6G rollout, calling them vital to the nation's 6G vision. IAFI urges TRAI to rethink traditional auctions, citing declining operator interest and poor 2024 auction results (only 1.34% spectrum sold). It recommends including contiguous spectrum up to 8400 MHz to enable ultra-broadband connectivity and align with global shifts toward more innovation-friendly spectrum policies. Read More

11. IAFI continues to champion India's leadership in telecom and ICT innovation worldwide. Its President, Mr. Bharat B Bhatia, emphasizes the urgent need for clear SATCOM and 6GHz spectrum policies to sustain India's AI and 6G competitiveness. Speaking from Geneva while chairing the 6G standards meeting, he highlighted risks from policy delays on 6GHz and nonGSO satellites. Swift action is crucial to unlock innovation in AI, blockchain, and rural connectivity. Read More

12. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) commends the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for releasing the draft Telecommunications Rules, 2025 (GSR 606E) under the Telecom Act, 2023—a crucial milestone in shaping India's telecom future. IAFI urges DoT to align the new authorisation framework with TRAI's recommendations to promote transparency, inclusiveness, and innovation. These reforms promise to strengthen India's digital ecosystem and regulatory clarity. Read More

13. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) respectfully appeals to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji to expedite delicensing of the lower 6GHz band(5925–6425 MHz) for unlicensed WiFi use. This vital spectrum will boost WiFi6E/7 deployment and accelerate India's AI, IoT, and digital innovation ecosystem. Timely action will ensure India's leadership in the global technology race. Empowering access to this spectrum will drive inclusive growth and digital empowerment across the nation. Read More

14. IAFI Urges Prompt Delicensing of Lower 6 GHz Band. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has urged the Minister of Communications to promptly delicense the lower 6 GHz band (5925–6425 MHz) to boost innovation, local manufacturing, and exports. Despite a Gazette notification in May 2025, the final rules are still pending, risking economic losses of up to ?12.7 lakh crore annually and missing out on global opportunities worth $4 trillion. IAFI emphasized that timely delicensing is critical for Read More

15. We are proud to share that Mr. Bharat B Bhatia, President of the ITU-APT FOUNDATION OF INDIA (IAFI), has been nominated as Chair of the Editorial Committee for the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG-27), from the Republic of India. This prestigious nomination—made on the recommendation of the Heads of Delegation during the 2nd Meeting of APG27 (APG27-2)—recognizes the role of Editorial Committee Chair as being equivalent to Vice Chair of the Plenary. The proposal, formally moved by Read More

16. TRAI Chairman Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, speaking at ISPC-25 in New Delhi, highlighted the vital role of satellite communication in bridging India's digital divide and advancing national inclusion goals. He emphasized TRAI's balanced recommendations, including a 4% AGR fee for satellite spectrum use, to support industry growth. Lahoti also stressed the importance of non-terrestrial networks (NTNs) in enabling nationwide connectivity and achieving UN SDGs. Read More

17. India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has highlighted satellite internet as a key solution for expanding connectivity in rural and remote regions, where laying traditional networks like fiber or microwave is challenging. With 100% FDI permitted in the sector, DoT is promoting telecom manufacturing under the upcoming Telecom Policy 2025. Satellite services are expected to grow as devices shrink and become more smartphone-compatible. Read More

Links to our Activities & Programmes

1) Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for Strategic Need to Decouple UCC Regulations from Scam Communications and Establish a Dedicated Scam Prevention Framework

2) Shri Amit Agrawal, IAS, Chairman, DCC & Secretary (Telecom), Department of Telecommunications for Urgent Review of Draft Guidelines on NOC for Use of Indian Gateways by Foreign Operators

3) Dr. Prafulla Kumar Jain, Director, Program Management & Authorization Directorate (PMAD), IN-SPACe Headquarters Department of Space, Government of India for Position on Draft Telecommunications (Authorisation for Provision of Main Telecommunication Services) to ensure Alignment with International Standards for Satellite-based IoT under Internet Service Authorisation

4) Shri Amit Agrawal, Chairman, DCC & Secretary (Telecom), Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications for Position on Draft Telecommunications (Authorisation for Provision of Main Telecommunication Services) to ensure Alignment with International Standards for Satellite-based IoT under Internet Service Authorisation

5) Shri Amit Agrawal, Chairman DCC and Secretary (Telecom) Department of Telecommunications for Request to Expedite In-Principle Clearance & Other Approvals for NGSO Networks

6) Shri Amit Agrawal, IAS, Chairman (DCC) and Secretary (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India for Request for streamlining SACFA Clearance Procedures

7) Shri Amit Agrawal, IAS, Chairman (DCC) and Secretary (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India for Request for GST Rate Rationalization on Submarine Cable Repair & Maintenance Services within Indian Territorial Waters (ITW) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

8) Shri Amit Agrawal, IAS, Chairman (DCC) and Secretary (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India for Request for Expedited Implementation of TRAI Recommendations regarding Assignment and Pricing of Microwave Backhaul Spectrum.

9) Dr. Devvrat Tyagi, CG-1, IT & Telecom Division, NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110001 for IAFI Submits Comments to NITI Aayog on Jan Vishwas Siddhant Draft

10) The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Government of India, New Delhi for Urgent Appeal to Expedite Delicensing of the Lower 6 GHz Band to Secure India's AI Leadership and Digital Future.

11) Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Prompt delicensing of the 5925–6425 MHz Band for immediate Indoor Wi-Fi use and support innovation and "Make in India".

12) Letter to The Joint Secretary (Telecom) Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India for IAFI comments/suggestions on the Draft National Telecom Policy (NTP), 2025, circulated by the Policy Section of DoT on 24-07-2025.

13) Letter to The Joint Secretary (Telecom) Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India for IAFI comments/suggestions on the DoT Notification No. G.S.R.- 411(E), regarding draft Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024, issued on 24-06-2025.

14) Letter to The Joint Secretary (Telecom) Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India for IAFI comments on the DoT Notification No. G.S.R.316 (E) – Lower 6GHz Wi-Fi

15) 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

16) 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)

17) 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

18) 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

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 22 years with the prime objective of encouraging the involvement of professionals, corporate, pubic/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 29 and individual members to 150 making a total of 179 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

Partners Association

Activities in our focus areas during October to December 2025

While artificial intelligence (AI) is closely associated with algorithms and data, its effective deployment also depends on connectivity over the radio-frequency spectrum that enables wireless digital services worldwide.

As the importance of spectrum-based technologies keeps growing, women remain underrepresented in radiocommunications and spectrum-related decision-making processes. At the most recent World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), women still accounted for fewer than a quarter of the delegates.

ITU Member States are committed to promoting gender equality, equity and parity across the work of the Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), including in study groups, conference preparatory activities and leadership roles.

Countries around the world adopted a Gender Resolution at the Radiocommunication Assembly 2023 (RA-23). This resolution calls for strengthening, accelerating and scaling up women's participation across all ITU-R activities and recognizes the need for balanced representation in leadership positions to drive lasting change. It states that all ITU policies, work programmes, information dissemination, publications, study groups, seminars, courses, assemblies, and conferences on radiocommunications should reflect the sector's commitment to gender equality.

The Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of radio resources and satellite orbits, are adopted and revised by ITU Member States every three to four years at WRC, with the support of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector. Decisions taken at each WRC shape how spectrum is shared among services and reliably used by technologies that increasingly support AI-enabled applications.

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organized the 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (APT PP26-3) from 30 March to 2 April 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand, via a physical meeting with a remote participation modality. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI attended the meeting physically along with many other IAFI members. The Meeting was hosted by the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) of the Kingdom of Thailand. A total of 231 people attended the meeting, including 156 physical participants. A total of 36 contributions were discussed, with India submitting the highest number (12 contributions) and China submitting 10. Four information documents from CITEL, CEPT, RCC, and the ITU were also presented and discussed. The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (APT PP26-4) will be held from 15 to 19 June 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

सत्यमेव जयते

Department of Telecommunications

Ministry of Communications

Government of India

DoT commences Nation-wide trial of Mobile-Based Disaster Alert Systems: In an effort to ensure the timely dissemination of critical information during emergencies, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) are enhancing India's disaster communication capabilities by introducing Cell Broadcast (CB) technology alongside the existing SMS-based system. Built on the ITU-recommended Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), the current system already delivers geo-targeted SMS alerts across all 36 States and Union Territories; however, Cell Broadcast technology significantly improves upon this by simultaneously transmitting alerts to all mobile devices within a specific geographic area for near real- time delivery. As the government conducts nationwide trials of this upgraded system, officials advise citizens to simply ignore the test messages they may receive on their devices. First trial will take place on 02 May 2026.

TRAI

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released its Independent Drive Test (IDT) findings for the Andhra Pradesh Licensed Service Area (LSA), covering extensive city of Warangal and surrounding areas in the month of March 2026. The drive tests conducted under the supervision of the TRAI Regional Office, Hyderabad, were designed to capture real-world mobile network performance across diverse usage environments- Urban Zones, Institutional Hotspots, rural residential areas etc. Between 23rd March 2026 to 25th March 2026, TRAI teams conducted detailed tests for 375.3 Kms Warangal City drive test and 8 Hotspot locations. Technologies evaluated included 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G, reflecting the service experience of users across multiple handset capabilities. The findings of the IDT have been intimated to all the TSPs concerned.