

Monthly News Summary



Dear Respected Member,

ITU-WRC Foundation of India (IAFI) is delighted to share about the previous month's activities.

The World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23): The flagship event of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23), is currently in progress at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, spanning from 20th November to 15th December 15, 2023. A significant contingent of Indian delegates, led by the Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), representatives from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and President IAFI with many others actively engaged in the conference. Their participation aimed to contribute valuable expertise and support to the Indian delegation. The World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) stands as the most prestigious international event organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Convening representatives of governments, industry, and academia, WRC-23 serves as a crucial platform to deliberate and reach consensus on the utilization of the radio-frequency spectrum. Held every three to four years, WRC-23 meticulously reviews and, when deemed necessary, revises the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the allocation of the radio-frequency spectrum and the orbits of geostationary and non-geostationary satellites. The process of refining documents for WRC-23 has involved a meticulous and comprehensive series of steps since WRC-19, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from October 28, 2019, to November 22, 2019. Directly following WRC-19, CPM23-1 convened from November 25 to 26, 2019, to finalize the agenda for WRC-23 and established a preliminary agenda for WRC-27. CPM23-1 strategically allocated work among various study groups, which then embarked on a four-year period of continuous research and analysis. The outcomes of these studies were meticulously compiled into draft CPM text. Subsequently, CPM23-2 convened from March 27 to April 6, 2023, to consolidate the findings of the study groups and refine the draft CPM text. The revised documents underwent further scrutiny and approval by RA-23, which formulated recommendations and revised ITU-R resolutions for final consideration at WRC-23. This rigorous and collaborative process has ensured that the documents presented at WRC-23 are well-informed, comprehensive, and representative of the diverse perspectives of the ITU membership. Opening remarks of the Secretary General, ITU inaugurating the WRC-23 event can be seen through the following link. [Click Here](#)

Shri Bhatia, President IAFI appointed as Vice-chair for WRC-23 work: The Secretary-General, ITU, through a document dated 20-11-2023, announced the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chairpersons for the committees established to ensure the seamless operation of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23). Notably, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI has been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson for Committee-4. He is the sole representative from India or the entire Indian subcontinent to hold such a position, highlighting his significant role in the WRC-23 proceedings. It is crucial to note that Committee-4 holds responsibility for addressing some of the most sensitive matters for WRC-23. These include the examination of frequency band 4 800-4 990 MHz, safeguarding stations of aeronautical and maritime mobile services; and evaluating the identification of frequency bands such as 3 300-3 400 MHz, 3 600-3 800 MHz, 6 425-7 025 MHz, 7 025-7 125 MHz, and 10.0-10.5 GHz for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT). Committee-4 is tasked with deliberating on issues related to High-Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS) for IMT, aeronautical and maritime mobile services, Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), amateur service, amateur-satellite service, and various other critical concerns.

Bilateral meeting between India and ITU regarding upcoming WTSA-2024: The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 (WTSA-24), a quadrennial event, a crucial platform for the ITU-T, is scheduled to be held from October 15 to October 24, 2024, in New Delhi, India. WTSA-24 represents a significant milestone in shaping global telecommunications standards. Last event, WTSA-20, faced challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to its relocation to Geneva, Switzerland. Last event was occurred from March 1 to March 9, 2022, preceded by the Global Standards Symposium on February 28, 2022. The forthcoming WTSA-24 is poised to play a pivotal role in addressing the evolving landscape of telecommunication standards, fostering international collaboration, and navigating the industry's response to on-going global challenges. A bilateral meeting was held at Dubai, UAE, to discuss the preparations of WTSA-24. India was well-represented at the meeting by a distinguished delegation including Shri Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, DoT; Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI; Shri V.J. Christopher, Wireless Advisor; Ms M Revathi, JWA; Shri Arun Kumar and Shri Amit Gulati, DWA. On the ITU side, Mr. Mario Maniewicz, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR); Dr. Cosmas Lukyison Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and Mr. Seizo Onoe, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) represented the organization. The meeting served as an important platform for fostering constructive dialogue and coordination between India and the ITU, facilitating discussions on bilateral issues, and laying the groundwork for preparations leading up to the WTSA-24.

Joint meeting organized by WWRF, IAFI and TII with Secretary General, ITU: WWRF, TII and IAFI organized a joint meeting with the Secretary General, ITU at Dubai, UAE on 21-11-2023, to discuss the various future challenges related to radio communication international Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), satellite communication, and issues pertaining to aeronautical and maritime mobile services. WWRF stands out as a distinctive forum where the wireless community collaboratively addresses pivotal research challenges, aiming to promote research initiatives that foster unbounded communications to tackle key societal challenges in the future. All participants expressed a mutual commitment to fostering collaboration on research, development, and policy initiatives to address the identified challenges. Meeting proved a valuable platform for exchanging insights, addressing challenges, and fostering collaboration between WWRF, TII, IAFI, and ITU. The organizations expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue and look forward to continued collaboration on critical issues in the field of telecommunications.

Dinner reception organized by WWRF/IAFI on 24-11-2023: The World Wireless Research Foundation (WWRF), in collaboration with IAFI, organized a networking dinner on 24-11-2023 in Dubai, coinciding with the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23). The dinner attracted delegates from diverse countries, representatives from various industries, and senior figures from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), including the Secretary-General of ITU.



The Radiocommunication Assembly-2023 (RA-23) meeting held at Dubai 13-17, Nov, 2023: The Radiocommunication Assembly 2023 (RA-23) was held in Dubai, UAE, from 13th to 17th November, 2023. Shri Bharat Bhatia-President, IAFI, Shri Jitendra Singh-Vice President, IAFI along with other IAFI members actively participated in the meeting, to support Indian delegation. Meeting was attended by over 1,500 delegates from over 150 countries. The prestigious Radiocommunication Assembly is the supreme organ of the Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). It is responsible for the technical and operational aspects of radio communications, including the allocation of the radiofrequency spectrum and the development of technical standards. The delegates discussed and adopted the wide range of issues, including future of spectrum allocation for mobile broadband services, such as 5G and beyond, development of new technologies for spectrum sharing, spectrum for satellite communications, protection of radio frequencies from harmful interference and development of standards for radio equipment. The RA-23 was ended with a resounding success, yielding a series of critical decisions that will undoubtedly shape the future of radio communications. Despite the severe rain and thunderstorms that plagued the UAE, causing a delay in the commencement of the last day of the plenary session, the event proceeded with full of enthusiasm.

Adoption of resolutions - ITU R-56-2 and ITU R-65 by the RA-23 plenary: IAFI was the main proponent to pursue two important resolutions viz ITU R 56-2 and ITU R-65 since beginning, anticipating that these will shape the future of mobile telecommunications and will provide a framework for the development of new IMT systems, to meet the growing needs of users worldwide. ITU R 56-2 defines the terms "IMT-2000" and "IMT-Advanced" and assigns a new name to those systems, system components and related aspects that include new radio interface(s) that support the new capabilities of systems beyond IMT-2000 and IMT-Advanced. IMT-2020 and beyond, based on new radio interfaces that support enhanced capabilities, such as increased data rates, lower latency, and more reliable connections. ITU R-65 establishes the principles for the future development of IMT for 2020 and beyond. The development of IMT for 2020 and beyond systems will be based on the principles of global compatibility, to support global roaming, adoption of open standards to encourage innovation and competition, and to designing sustainable and environmentally friendly systems. The adoption of ITU R 56-2 and ITU R-65 by Radiocommunication Assembly-2023 is a significant step forward in the development of IMT for 2020 and beyond. These resolutions will help to ensure that IMT systems continue to meet the growing needs of users worldwide.

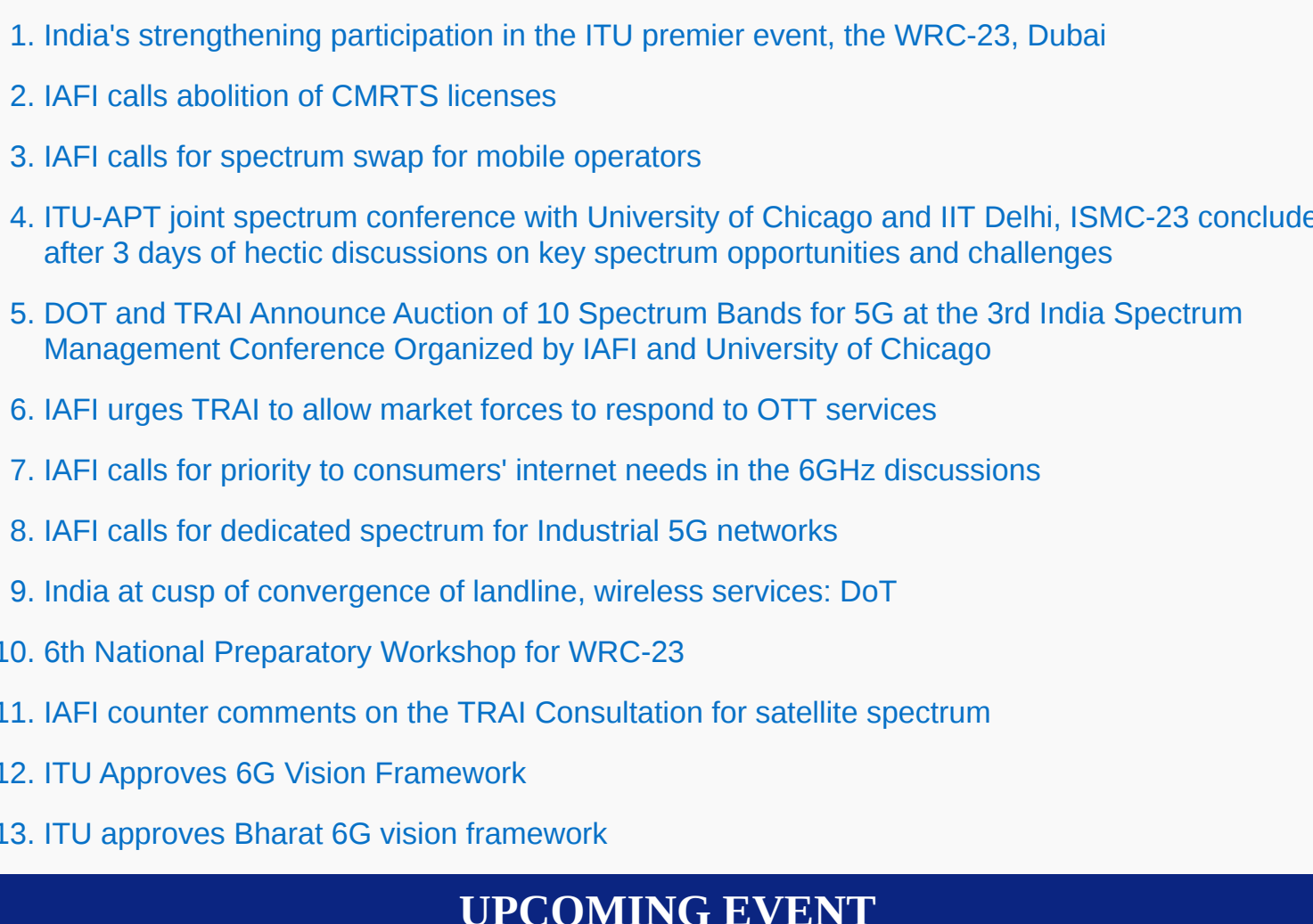
2nd 6G Summit organized by TII at Abu Dhabi, UAE: Technology Innovation Institute (TII) organized a 2nd 6G Summit-2023 from 16th to 17th Nov, 2023 at Abu Dhabi. TII is a global research centre and the pillar of Abu Dhabi's Advanced Technology Research Council (UAEC). 6G Summit invited experts from the global scientific and research communities, industry leaders, and standardization bodies, working on the cutting edge of wireless technologies, to provide international exposure for local initiatives in the field and create opportunities for valuable collaborations with leading institutions and companies. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI was invited as guest speaker and presented a structured and informative talk on the topic "Beyond Connectivity, Towards a Connected Intelligent Society", a significant accomplishment for Shri Bhatia and to the IAFI community.

IAFI celebrated Happy Diwali: IAFI wishes you all a very Happy Diwali. May the festival of lights bring you and your loved ones happiness, good health, and wealth. Happy Diwali was celebrated in the IAFI office to spread the light of happiness and prosperity and to encourage all in creating a festive and inclusive work environment. Shubh Diwali.

IAFI Radio Group meeting regarding three Consultation Papers released by TRAI: IAFI Radio Group meeting was held on 02-11-2023 at IAFI office in hybrid mode, to discuss the views of the members on the draft comments circulated to all members. Draft comments on the following three Consultation Papers were circulated and it was decided to hold a meeting on Thursday 2nd November at 12 PM IST at the IAFI office to discuss and finalize our draft response to TRAI. 1. Consultation Paper on Assignment of Spectrum in E&V Bands, and Spectrum for Microwave Access (MVA) & Microwave Backhaul (MWB) 2. Consultation Paper on Open and De-licensed use of Unused or Limited Spectrum Bands for Demand Generation for Limited Period in Tera-Hertz Range. 3. Consultation Paper on Review of Terms and Conditions of PMRTS and CMRTS Licenses. Draft comments were discussed in details and it was decided to write to TRAI, to seek extension of last date of submission of comments regarding Consultation Papers on MVA/MWB and Tera Hertz spectrum and send the updated comments to TRAI regarding PMRTS/CMRTS.

Digital India: Achievements and challenges: Bharat Bhatia President IAFI participated in a panel discussions on achievements and challenges of Digital India initiative of the Hon'ble prime minister of India organised by the Doordarshan. The discussions will be telecast on DD in the coming weeks.

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



1. India's strengthening participation in the ITU premier event, the WRC-23, Dubai
2. IAFI calls abolition of CMRTS licenses
3. IAFI calls for spectrum swap for mobile operators
4. ITU-APT joint spectrum conference with University of Chicago and IIT Delhi, ISMC-23 concludes after 3 days of hectic discussions on key spectrum opportunities and challenges
5. DoT and TRAI Announce Auction of 10 Spectrum Bands for 5G at the 3rd India Spectrum Management Conference Organized by IAFI and University of Chicago
6. IAFI urges TRAI to allow market forces to respond to OTT services
7. IAFI calls for priority to consumers' internet needs in the 6GHz discussions
8. IAFI calls for dedicated spectrum for Industrial 5G in networks
9. India at cusp of convergence of landline, wireless services: DoT
10. 6th National Preparatory Workshop for WRC-23
11. IAFI counter comments on the TRAI Consultation for satellite spectrum
12. ITU Approves 6G Vision Framework
13. ITU approves Bharat 6G vision framework

UPCOMING EVENT



PAST IAFI EVENT



Links to our Activities & Programmes

- 1) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Suggestions for formulation of a new Policy for Spectrum Swapping
- 2) Letter to Minister of External Affairs on Delicensing of 6GHz band
- 3) Letter to Secretary DoT on Important issues awaiting solution in the telecom sector
- 4) Letter to DDG TEC for Nomination to join the member of TSAC
- 5) Letter to MOC on Policy for 5G Network for Industries
- 6) 14th Working Party 5D Summary
- 7) IAFI Comments on In-Space Draft guidelines for implementation of the Indian Space Policy 2023
- 8) Request for amendment of NFAP-2022/IND 16 for removal of frequency band 27-50 – 28.50 GHz for the use of IMT/5G on primary basis
- 9) Letter to MOS on 6G standardisation Roadmap
- 10) Suggestions of the IAFI on TRAI's recommendations on 'Licensing Framework for Establishing and Operating Satellite Earth Station Gateway (SESG)

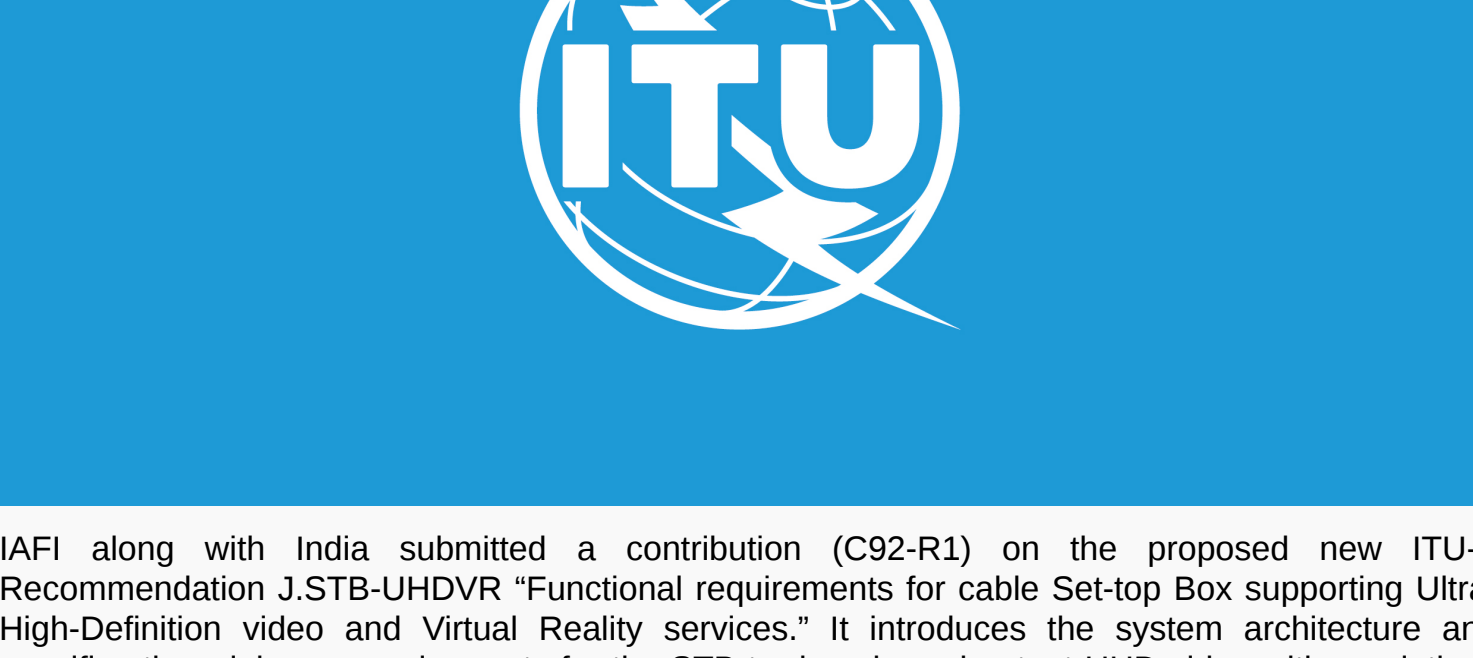
IAFI MEMBERSHIP

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 Indian Telecom sector. The 17th Executive Council meeting (EC) of IAFI was held on July 21, 2023, at IAFI office, Barakhamba Road. The EC welcomed 2 new corporate members and 1 individual member to the EC which has been overseeing the increased work load in ITU & APT Activities. This addition, takes corporate members to 22 and individual members to 130 and making a total of 152 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. [Membership details](#)



Activities in our focus areas during November 2023



IAFI along with India submitted a contribution (C92-R1) on the proposed new ITU-T Recommendation J.STB-UHDVR "Functional requirements for cable Set-top Box supporting Ultra-High-Definition Video and Virtual Reality services." It introduces the system architecture and specifies the minimum requirements for the STB to decode and output UHD video with resolutions of 4K, 8K, or higher. Additionally, the STB should be compatible with VR services, utilizing either cable or WLAN IEEE 802.11be technology.



The invitation on Training Course on Planning for effective use of radio frequency bands and trends in wireless communication technology, 11 - 15 March 2024, Japan was sent to IAFI members to take attend the training course and the last date for submission of the nomination is 25th December 2023.



"This (electronics manufacturing industry) is a growth sector, growing at double-digit CAGR (compounded annual growth rate). Everyone will get opportunities. I encourage every company to Make in India, to encourage every company to export from India," Vastinaw said at the inauguration of a new smartphone manufacturing facility by Dixon-sub subsidiary Padget Electronics. New Delhi: Other local Indian manufacturers are increasingly moving towards attaining critical mass after which they too can meet the production-linked incentive targets by roping in other smartphone brands, Union Minister of Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw said Thursday.



TRAI released a Consultation Paper regarding review of Detail and Conditions of PMRTS and CMRTS Licenses. Consultation Paper was examined in detail and after draft comments were circulated to all members and finally the IAFI comments were sent to TRAI on 07-11-2023. communication the IAFI views that there is an urgent need to review the terms and conditions of PMRTS/CMRTS licenses, as introduced long back, in addition scenario has been changes significantly, especially after roll out of 4G/5G services. In telecom, IAFI issued a media release to Communication. They announced significant progress by the Government/DoT in past two years in introducing many telecom reforms, including simplifying regulation and creating a more transparent environment. IAFI also called on TRAI to recommend merging the CMRTS license with the WPC license for captive users. Captive users play a critical role in nation building, industrial development, and infrastructure projects such as metro rail, seaports, airports, and PMRTS. Merging the two licenses would simplify the licensing process and make it easier for captive users to obtain spectrum.