

Monthly News Summary

Dear Respected Member,

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



The DSA 2024 Global Summit from 23 to 25 Sept. 2024: The Dynamic Spectrum Alliance (DSA) hosted a Global Summit from September 23rd to 25th, 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland. Co-located with the "Wi-Fi World Congress Europe 2024 - WWC," the world's exclusive conference was dedicated to supporting the global Wi-Fi industry, the DSA global summit brought together policymakers, regulators, and industry professionals to discuss Spectrum Sharing, focused on innovation and opportunities. Leading figures from the Wi-Fi industry shared their insights on the potential of 6 GHz Wi-Fi for homes, IoT, next-generation enterprise connectivity, ISPs, MSPs, device innovation, and the cutting-edge advancements in Wi-Fi technology. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI was invited as Guest Speaker to address the issue "User's demands in the era of AI and the path to 6G Services" and joined panel discussion along with Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT, Mr. Chris Woolford, Director of International Spectrum Policy - Ofcom and Chairman - Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) of CEPT and Mr Mercedes Aramendia, President, Communications Services Regulatory Unit (URSEEC). The year 2024, marked a significant milestone in technological history as the world celebrated the 25th anniversary of Wi-Fi. In the year 1999, the Wi-Fi Alliance released the standards for the Wi-Fi technology. This ground-breaking technology has revolutionized our lives, and its widespread adoption can be attributed to the efforts of the Wi-Fi Alliance (formerly known as the Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance - WECA).

TRAI Consultation Paper on UCC: On August 28, 2024, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) published a consultation paper seeking stakeholder's comments on the "Review of the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018." The deadline for submissions was initially set for September 25, 2024, but was later extended to October 9, 2024. The IAFI has drafted comments on the consultation paper and circulated to its members for review and updates.

Meeting of informal group on lower 6 GHz: Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI organized a virtual meeting of the informal group on 25th Sept. 2024 at 11:00 AM from Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss the comments to be submitted to NWC-3 meeting, to be held at WPC/DOT on 27th Sept. 2024 on the Lower 6 GHz. Comments drafted on the issue were shared with the members and all members were in agreement.

2nd Broadband India Summit, 2024: Bharat Exhibitions with support from the Broadband India Forum (BIF) and many others, organized the 2nd edition of Broadband India Summit 2024, on 27th September 2024 at Hotel the Lalit, New Delhi. Theme of the summit was "Connecting the Unconnected." Main aim of the summit was to address the critical issue of connectivity across India by focusing on both Wireless and Satellite networks. The summit discussed the importance of 5G Intelligent Villages, Fiber Optic Infrastructure, Rural Broadband Connectivity, Satellite Connectivity, 5G Deployment, Next-Generation Fiber Networks, Business Models for Fiber ISPs, Policy and Regulatory Framework, Public Services and Digital Governance, Innovation and Future Technologies, GPON optical line terminals and many more.

WWRF-TSDSI along with IAFI organized a workshop on RIS: The World Wireless Research Forum (WWRF), TSDSI, and IAFI jointly hosted a workshop on Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces (RIS) on September 17, 2024. RIS, a promising wireless technology, dynamically controls radio signals between transmitters and receivers. The workshop offered an in-depth overview of RIS standards and fostered knowledge sharing about current and emerging trends in this field. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of IAFI, was one of the distinguished guest speakers who emphasized the pivotal role of RIS in shaping the future of 6G communication.

IAFI Radio Group meeting to review documents for the upcoming WP-5D/WP-4C meeting: IAFI Radio Group meeting was held on 18-09-2024 in a hybrid mode, to review the documents to be submitted in the upcoming WP-5D international Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) user equipment, thereby supplementing terrestrial IMT network coverage. Main aim of the study was regarding increasing demand for ubiquitous connectivity in rural and remote regions, where infrastructure is sparse and the deployment of 4G/5G networks is economically challenging.

As the sole document presented during the meeting, IAFI's proposal was subjected to in-depth discussion. Based on the valuable feedback from participating stakeholders, the document underwent revisions and refinements to address the comments raised. Chair assured to circulate the clean version of the document to all stakeholders for final comments and finally sending it to the NWP.

7th meeting of the National Working Party 4C: The seventh meeting of the National Working Party 4C convened virtually on September 20, 2024, at 3:00 PM. Organized by the WPC wing of DoT, the meeting focused on agenda item 1.13 of the WRC-27 conference. Among Indian stakeholders, only the IAFI submitted an input document addressing direct connectivity of the Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) and associated issues related to the service area of non-GSO FSS and MSS satellite systems" were also discussed and approved in the meeting. Document was sent to Dir (BR), ITU and finally uploaded on the WP-5D website.

In addition to the above, one more document, to be submitted in the upcoming WP-4C meeting regarding "Studies on development of regulatory measures to limit of the unauthorized operations of non-geostationary-satellite orbit (non-GSO) earth stations in the fixed-satellite service (FSS) and mobile-satellite service (MSS) and associated issues related to the service area of non-GSO FSS and MSS satellite systems" were also discussed and approved in the meeting. Document was sent to Dir (BR), ITU for further necessary action.

3rd Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-33): Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organized its 3rd Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-33) from 09 to 13 September 2024 in Bangkok in a hybrid mode. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, Shri Jiendra Singh, Dr. Sendil Kumar and Dr. Punil Rathod attended the meeting physically, while many other IAFI members joined the meeting virtually. IAFI presented the following four documents in the meeting.

1. The working Document towards a draft new report on usage of cooperative vehicle-infrastructure systems
2. APT report on the status of implementation of APT 700 Band Plan in Asia Pacific countries. Proposed further updates to the working document towards a new APT report on WASIRLAN technology, use cases, spectrum demand and regulatory development.
3. Proposed further updates to the working document towards a draft new APT report on Terahertz (THz) fixed wireless systems operating in the frequency above 450 GHz.
4. Proposed further updates to the working document towards a draft new APT report on deployment approaches and solutions for IMT-2020/5G use case.

All above documents were discussed in detail and accepted. Total 109 input documents were discussed in the meeting and 20 output documents were approved by the closing plenary. The major achievement of this meeting was the adoption of a new APT report on 6 GHz Wi-Fi.

IAFI Radio Group meeting to review documents for the upcoming WP-5D/WP-4C meeting: IAFI Radio Group meeting was held on 11-09-2024, in a virtual mode, to discuss the documents to be submitted by the IAFI in the upcoming meeting of the WP-5D and WP-4C. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI arranged the virtual meeting from the Hotel Amari, Bangkok, as attending AWG-33 meeting at Bangkok from 09 to 13 Sept. 2024. Following two draft documents for the WP-5D meeting were discussed in the meeting.

1. Further updates to the working document towards a preliminary draft of a new report ITU-R M. [IMT.2G].
2. Increasing complexity in testing of IMT-2030 technologies, proposal for expectations for IEG's in advancing IMT-2030.

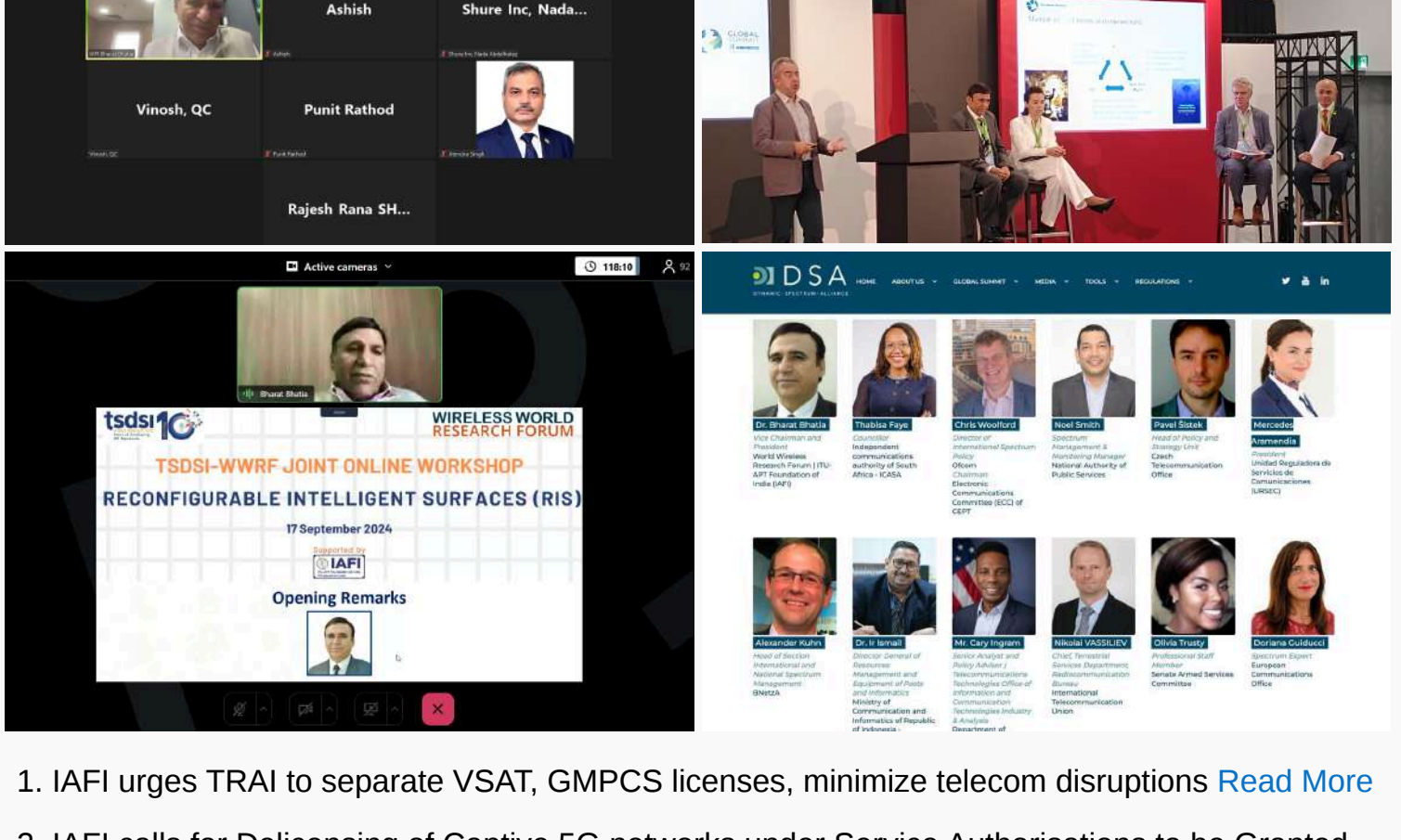
In addition, one more document to be submitted in the WP-4C meeting on Studies on development of regulatory measures to limit the unauthorized operations of non-geostationary-satellite orbit (non-GSO) earth stations was also discussed but there was no agreement to submit the same. Further, IAFI is working on the following document.

1. Working document towards preliminary draft revision of report ITU-R M. 2527-0, applications of the terrestrial component of International Mobile Telecommunications for specific societal, industrial and other uses.

It was decided to arrange a final meeting on 18-09-2024, to finalize the draft to be submitted in the WP-5D meeting. It may be noted that the 47th WP-5D meeting will be held from 03-10-2024 to 11-10-2024 at Geneva, Switzerland and the deadline for submission of contributions to the WP-5D is Saturday, 21 September 2024, 16:00 Hrs UTC.

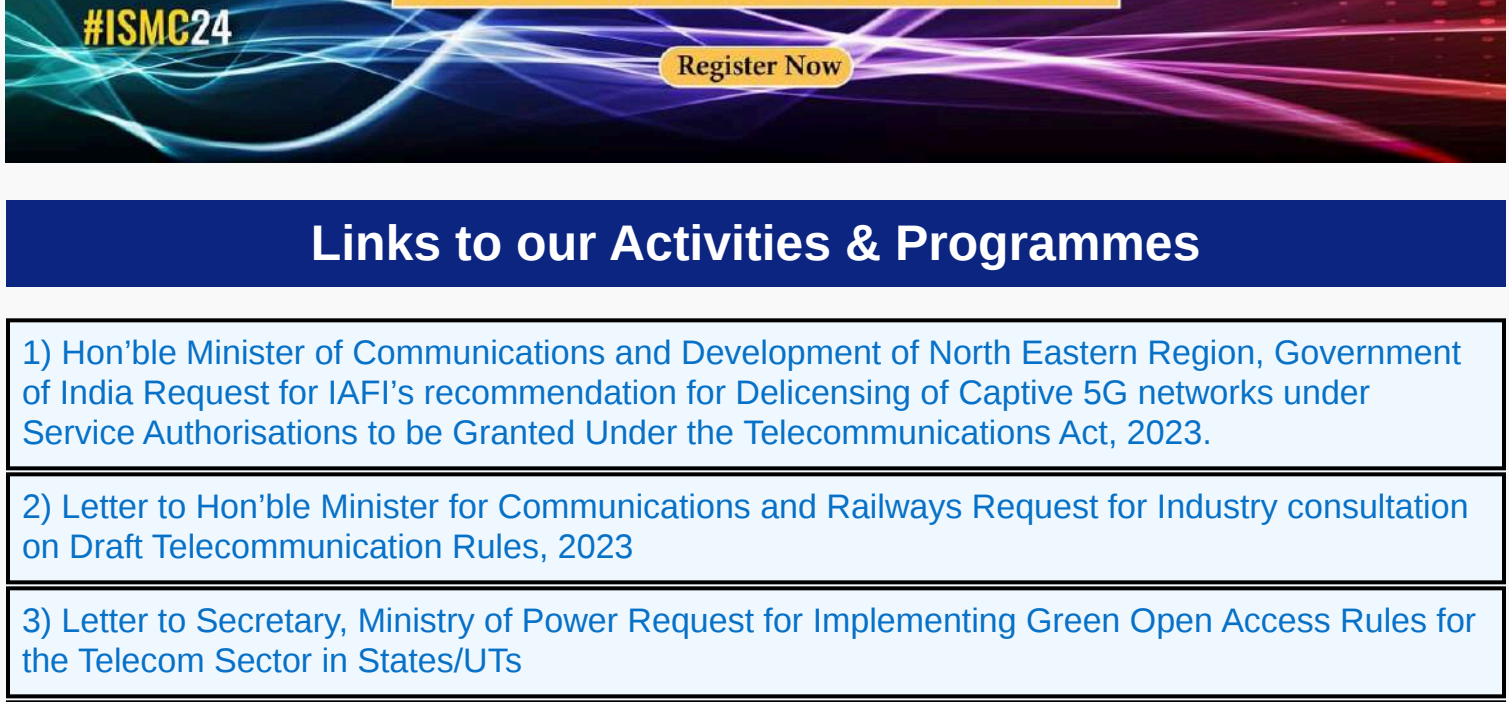
Working Group-2 (WG-2) of NFAP meeting: The WPC wing of the DoT convened a meeting of the Working Group-2 (WG-2) on September 11, 2024, in the Spectrum Room at Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi. The focus of the meeting was on revising the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) and related footnotes pertaining to India. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI and other members participated virtually in the discussions.

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



1. IAFI urges TRAI to separate VSAT, GMPCS licenses, minimize telecom disruptions [Read More](#)
2. IAFI calls for Delicensing of Captive 5G networks under Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. [Read More](#)
3. Bharat Bhatia, president ITU APT Foundation of India has been elected to chair the global group in ITU that will decide the 6G standards. [Read More](#)
4. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a press release applauded TRAI for releasing a consultation paper on spectrum auction, in millimeter bands 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40 GHz, and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands, seeking comments from the stakeholders, for future 5G deployment and ensuring reliable and widespread 5G coverage in sectors like healthcare, robotics, and Industry 4.0. [Read More](#)
5. A new Task Force dedicated to address the challenges and opportunities in developing and standardizing 6G technology, to focus on enhancing India's participation in the ITU IMT-2030 framework, IAFI welcomes participation from industry, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations on ubiquitous and affordable connectivity, support development of telecom and semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, thus India taking lead in 6G Technology ecosystem and services. [Read More](#)
6. IAFI urges Department of Telecom to support India's local manufacturing innovation and export make in India products. Considering the importance of the Wi-Fi in 6 GHz band, many major economies like USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Singapore, UAE etc, have already delicensed Wi-Fi 6e (5925-6425 MHz). [Read More](#)
7. During the "National Workshop on Learnings from WRC-23 and the way forward, planning for WRC-27 and forthcoming ITU and APT meetings", organized by IAFI at Hotel Hyatt Centric, MG Road, Bangalore, Chief Guest, the Member (Technology) announced that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will soon initiate studies on the Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS). The studies will also address potential 5G coexistence issues with Aircraft Radio Altimeters. [Read More](#)
8. DoT to resolve 5G coexistence with radio altimeters, start studies on CBRS: Official [Read More](#)
9. IAFI has urged the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to expedite the assignment of satellite spectrum without any further delay. This is to prevent potential service launch delays for VSAT and other satellite operators operating under a unified license. IAFI emphasizes that such assignments should be processed promptly under existing guidelines, without waiting for the issuance of rules under the telecom act. [Read More](#)
10. In the 45th meeting of WP5D of the ITU-R in Geneva (January 31 to February 7, 2024), a proposal by IAFI was approved to create a global report on mobile technologies for financial inclusion. The report will include insights from India's experience with UPI payments. IAFI emphasized UPI's robust security, reliability, and speed, underscoring its crucial role in promoting financial inclusion and driving economic growth. [Read More](#)
11. IAFI has urged the Department of Telecommunications to promptly process applications for the assignment of satellite spectrum, specifically for VSAT and similar services authorized under unified licenses. The request aims to prevent any delays in the launch of services by VSAT and other satellite operators, emphasizing the importance of adherence to existing guidelines. [Read More](#)
12. The first national preparatory workshop for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) was organized by the Telecom Engineering Centre of the Department of Telecom and IAFI. The workshop focused on key topics such as the structure and organization of WTSA, review of existing resolutions, and proposals for new resolutions in the field of telecommunication standardization. [Read More](#)

UPCOMING EVENT



Links to our Activities & Programmes

- 1) 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.
- 2) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways Request for Industry consultation on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023
- 3) Letter to Secretary, Ministry of Power Request for Implementing Green Open Access Rules for the Telecom Sector in States/UTs
- 4) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of MTCTE
- 5) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Devices under MTCTE
- 6) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
- 7) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for Urgent Intervention in Equipment Theft Cases
- 8) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways, Government of India Urgent need for WRC-23 follow up actions on 6GHz Band-Delicensing of 5925-6425 MHz is key to support innovation and make in India
- 9) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Rationalization of Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) pertaining to Satellite Communications
- 10) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
- 11) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Suggestions for formulation of a new Policy for Spectrum Swapping

IAFI MEMBERSHIP

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is a non-profit, non-political, non-partisan industry foundation registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1960. IAFI has been working for the last 20 years with the aim of encouraging the involvement of professionals in the public/private sector industries, R&D organizations, academic institutions, and such other agencies engaged in the development of the Indian Telecommunication. 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.

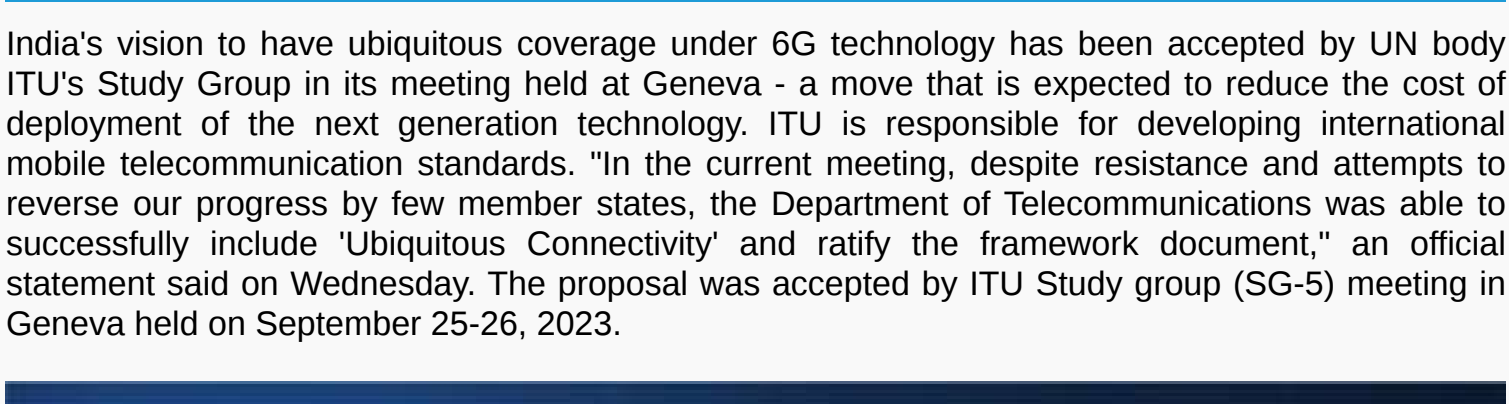
The benefits provided to the members include an invitation to all the events of the Foundation which include: Training programs, seminars, workshops, etc. conducted by the society on a complimentary basis. Besides, EC Members will also have access to information related to ITU and APT and other telecom 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](#)



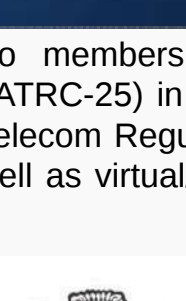
Partners Association



Activities in our focus areas during August 2024



India's vision to have ubiquitous coverage under 6G technology has been accepted by UN body ITU's Study Group in its meeting held at Geneva - a move that is expected to reduce the cost of deployment of the next generation technology. ITU is responsible for developing international mobile telecommunication standards. "In the current meeting, despite resistance and attempts to reverse our progress by few member states, the Department of Telecommunications was able to successfully include "Ubiquitous connectivity and acety the framework document," an official statement said on Wednesday. The proposal was ratified by ITU Study group (SG-5) meeting in Geneva held on September 25-26, 2023.



सत्यमेव जयते
Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India

Since the partial implementation of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 in June, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has been gradually rolling out crucial rules to enforce the new telecom legislative framework. This move signals a significant overhaul in India's telecom regulation, addressing issues like internet shutdowns, cybersecurity, and telecom infrastructure development, reported the Indian Express.



The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has recommended that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) encash bank guarantees of telecom companies for failing to pay financial penalties imposed for their inability to curb spam, according to a report by The Economic Times (ET). If enacted, this unprecedented move would serve as a reminder of regulations previously ignored by telcos, resulting in a penalty of upto Rs 115 crore.