

## IAFI News

### ET Telecom Award -2025 and 5G Congress-2025



ET Telecom, the telecom intelligence arm of The Economic Times hosted the fourth edition of the ET Telecom Awards 2025 on 24th March 2025, celebrating excellence and innovation in the telecom sector. The awards recognized outstanding products, applications, services, and technologies, as well as the visionary companies and leaders driving advancements in network technologies, operations, innovative implementations, and service delivery. A total of 23 awards were presented, with 18 honouring organizational achievements, 3 recognizing individual leadership, and 2 acknowledging impactful awareness campaigns. The winners were selected by a distinguished 9-member jury, which included Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI. ET Telecom also hosted a "5G Congress-2025" on the same day.

### National Working Party-4C (NWP-4C) 12th and 13th Meetings



NWP-4C held its 12th and 13th meetings on March 24 and March 28, 2025 to discuss two key input documents submitted by stakeholders. IAFI had submitted a document proposing updates to the working document on sharing and compatibility studies for WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.13 which was already considered and agreed in the 11th meeting with some of the key proposed changes, including aligning the start frequency of candidate band in 800 MHz with ITU-R M.1036. Adding three new notes in Annex 2 to reflect India's specific usage scenarios and updating Annex 6 with details on India's terrestrial frequency arrangements. The revised contribution was considered and approved.

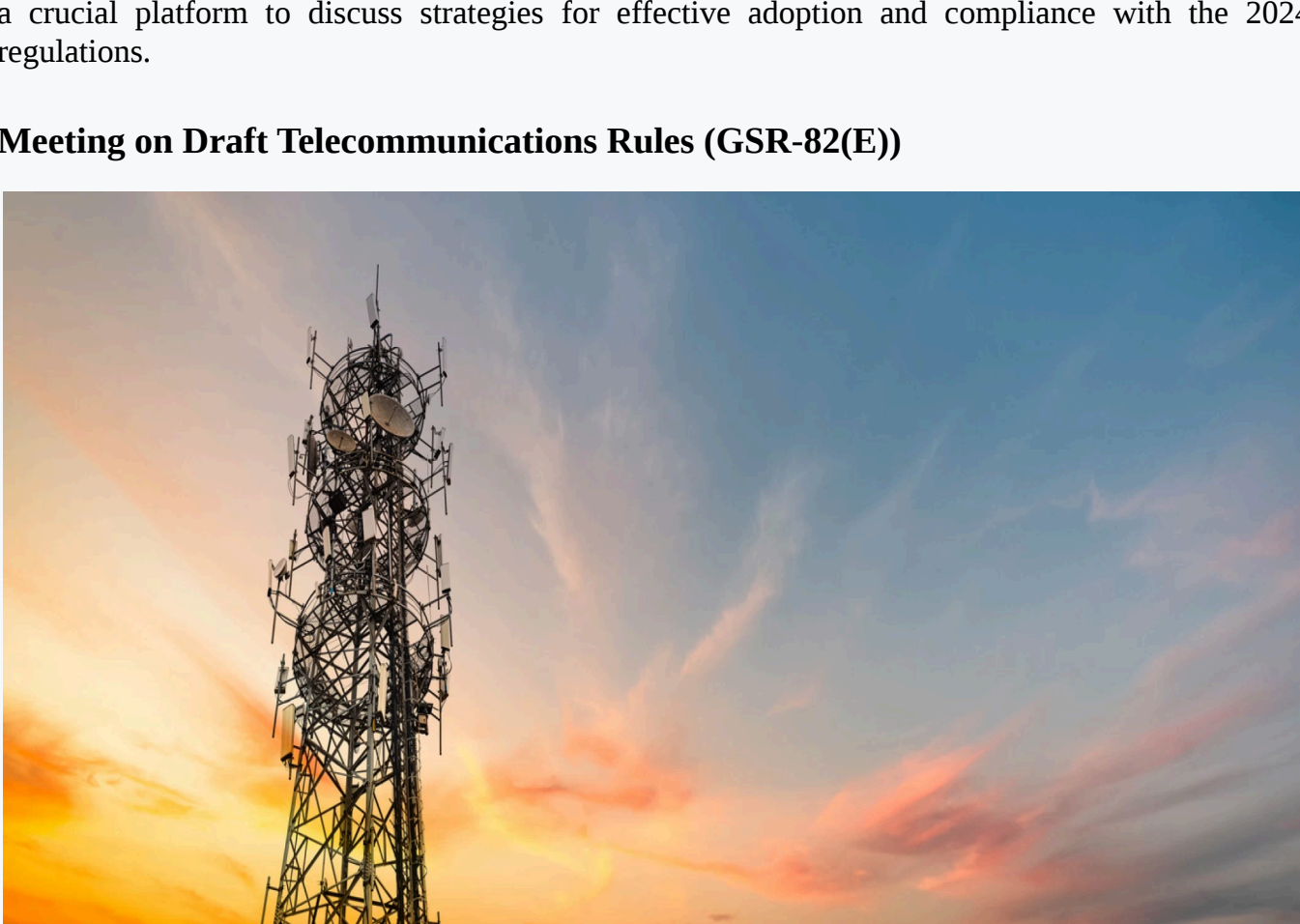
### Webinar on RoW by NCA-T GZB



The Webinar on "Telecommunications (RoW) Rules, 2024: Industry Perspective on Implementation of Rules and Way Forward" aims to offer insights into the industry's perspectives on the implementation of RoW Rules, 2024. It focuses on the challenges, opportunities and regulatory impact on stakeholders such as Rural Verticals of LSAs, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Internet Service Providers (ISPs), COAI, DIPA and other key players in Telecom sector. The webinar will also serve as a platform to discuss the way forward and explore strategies to ensure smooth adoption and compliance with the new regulations.

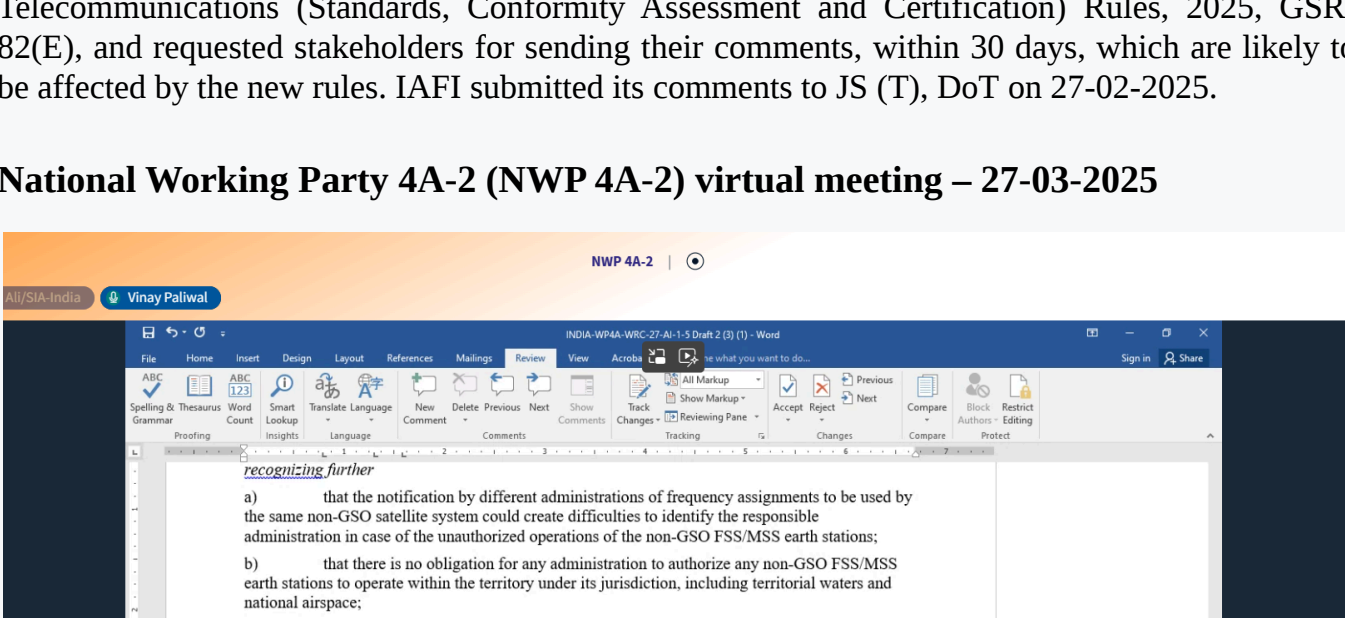
IAFI participated in a Webinar organized by the National Communications Academy-T, Ghaziabad, DoT on "Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024: Industry perspective on implementation of rules and way forward", on 24-03-2025 from 1430 to 1630 Hrs. The webinar addressed the critical challenges, opportunities, and regulatory impacts of the new RoW rules on key stakeholders, including Rural Verticals of LSAs, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Internet Service Providers (ISPs), COAI, and DIPA. Four technical sessions were conducted, specifically focusing on industry takeaways, TSP, Infrastructure Provider, and ISP implementation perspectives. A central theme was the persistent challenges faced by service providers due to the inconsistent implementation of the RoW framework across states, including the lack of online portals and protracted permission processes by state governments and local bodies, which significantly hinder broadband penetration, particularly Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) deployment. The webinar served as a crucial platform to discuss strategies for effective adoption and compliance with the 2024 regulations.

### Meeting on Draft Telecommunications Rules (GSR-82(E))



Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI participated in a meeting arranged by DoT, under the chairpersonship of Additional Secretary (T), DoT at 11 AM on 25.03.2025 in Conference Room, 13th Floor, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, to discuss the draft Telecommunications (Standards, Conformity Assessment and Certification) Rules, 2025 (GSR-82(E)), with the stakeholders, who have provided comments on said draft rules. It is pertinent to mention here that, after adoption of the new Telecommunication Act-2023, DoT vide notification dated 29-01-2025, published draft Telecommunications (Standards, Conformity Assessment and Certification) Rules, 2025, GSR-82(E), and requested stakeholders for sending their comments, within 30 days, which are likely to be affected by the new rules. IAFI submitted its comments to JS (T), DoT on 27-02-2025.

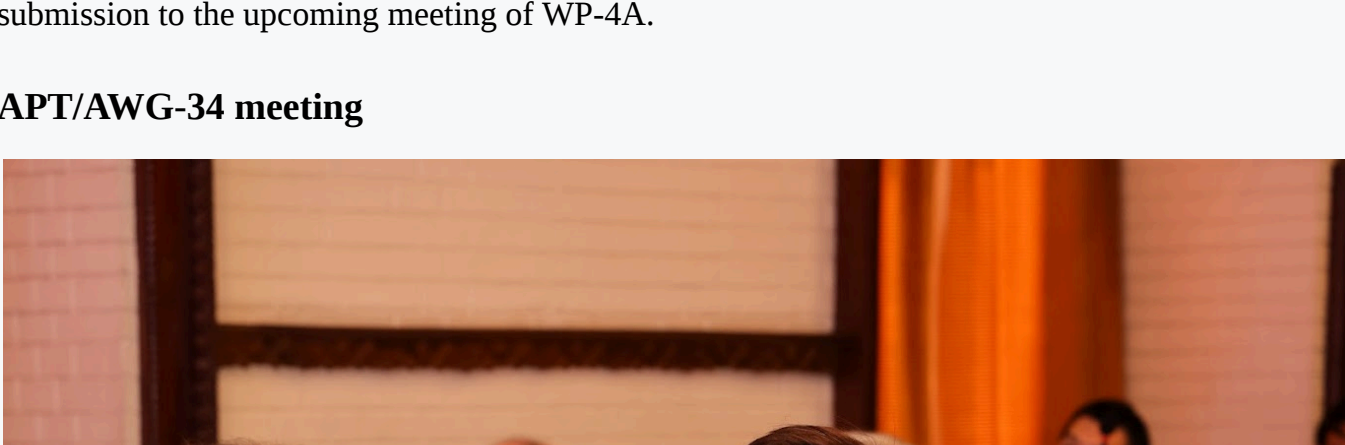
### National Working Party 4A-2 (NWP 4A-2) virtual meeting – 27-03-2025



Seventh meeting of the National Working Party 4A-2 (NWP 4A-2) was held on March 27, 2025 at 1100 Hrs. in virtual mode. The meeting was chaired by Dr. S.C. Bera, Group Director, SNPA-SNSICG, Space Application Centre. The meeting focused on finalizing the contribution on Agenda item 1.5 and preliminary views/position on the Agenda item 7 items/issues.

As per the discussions held in the last meeting, the IAFI submitted the updated document and same was discussed in the meeting. In addition, the issues currently under discussion in ITU-R WP 4A, for possible identification as a topic under Agenda item 7 were also discussed. Proposal to be submitted by India, as update to the Working Document on WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.5 – regarding regulatory measures to limit unauthorized operations of non-gostationary-satellite orbit (non-GSO) earth stations in the fixed-satellite service (FSS) and mobile-satellite service (MSS) were discussed and updated in the meeting. Based on the Resolution-14 of WRC-23, draft new resolution for WRC-27 regarding “regulatory measures to limit the unauthorized operations of non-GSO earth stations in the FSS and MSS and associated issues” was discussed in detail and updated for submission to the upcoming meeting of WP-4A.

### APT/AWG-34 meeting

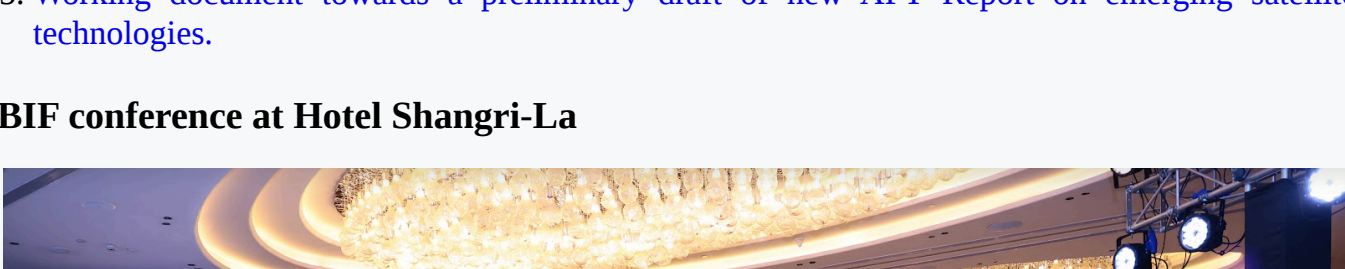


The 34th Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Wireless Group (APT/AWG-34) meeting will convene in Kathmandu, Nepal, from March 31 to April 4, 2025. Hosted by Nepal's Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MoCIT) and the Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA), the meeting will address wireless system advancements in the Asia-Pacific's digital convergence era. AWG facilitates effective radio-communication solutions and technology transfer. At its 34th meeting, the group will review existing work items, report on progress, and discuss new proposals and related issues.

IAFI submitted five contributions in the meeting.

- Proposal for further updates to the working document, toward draft revision of APT recommendation APT/AWG/REC-08 on frequency arrangements for the implementation of IMT in the band frequency range 612-806 MHz (612-703 MHz and 690-806 MHz).
- Proposals for working document towards a draft new survey report on usage of cooperative vehicle-infrastructure ITS systems.
- Proposal for draft Liaison Statement on completion of APT/AWG-REP-144 on WAS/RLAN.
- Proposal for updating working document towards revision of APT Proposal for updating working document towards revision of APT Report-136 on trends and spectrum developments for IMT usage in 2025 ~ 2030 in Asia-Pacific region.
- Working document towards a preliminary draft of new APT Report on emerging satellite technologies.

### BIF conference at Hotel Shangri-La



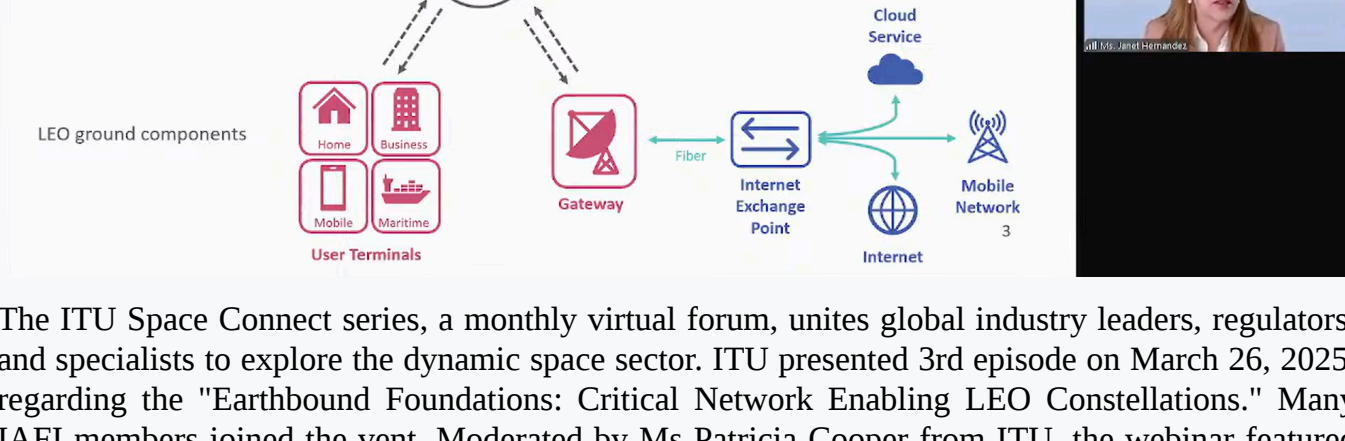
IAFI participated in the inaugural International Subsea Cable Systems Conference, hosted by the Broadband India Forum (BIF) in collaboration with the Global Digital Inclusivity Partnership, on 25-03-2025. The conference aimed to foster dialogue among global experts, industry leaders, and policymakers regarding the strategic importance of subsea connectivity for India's digital future. Recognizing that 99% of international data traffic relies on undersea fibre cables, discussions centered on key objectives: (1) analyzing the role of subsea cable systems in driving India's digital economy, (2) identifying policy and regulatory adjustments needed to position India as a global data transit hub and attract foreign investment, (3) exploring strategies for expanding India's subsea cable network while developing domestic operational and repair capabilities, and (4) enhancing the security and resilience of India's internet infrastructure and international connections.

### The 3rd Space Connect Webinar by ITU



The ITU Space Connect series, a monthly virtual forum, unites global industry leaders, regulators, and specialists to explore the ever-evolving space sector. ITU presented 3rd episode on March 26, 2025 regarding the "Earthbound Foundations: Critical Network Enabling LEO Constellations". Many IAFI members joined the vent. Moderated by Ms Patricia Cooper from ITU, the webinar featured presentations by Ms Janet Hernandez (Telecommunications Management Group), Ms Elizabeth Quintana (Ofcom UK), and Ms Kim Moraes Mota (Anatel, Brazil), covering essential aspects of LEO constellation network infrastructure. Next episode will be presented regarding "Navigating the Space Frontier: Women Leaders Shaping the Future", in April, 2025.

### TRAI Revised Recommendations on Infrastructure/Spectrum Sharing -25-03-2025

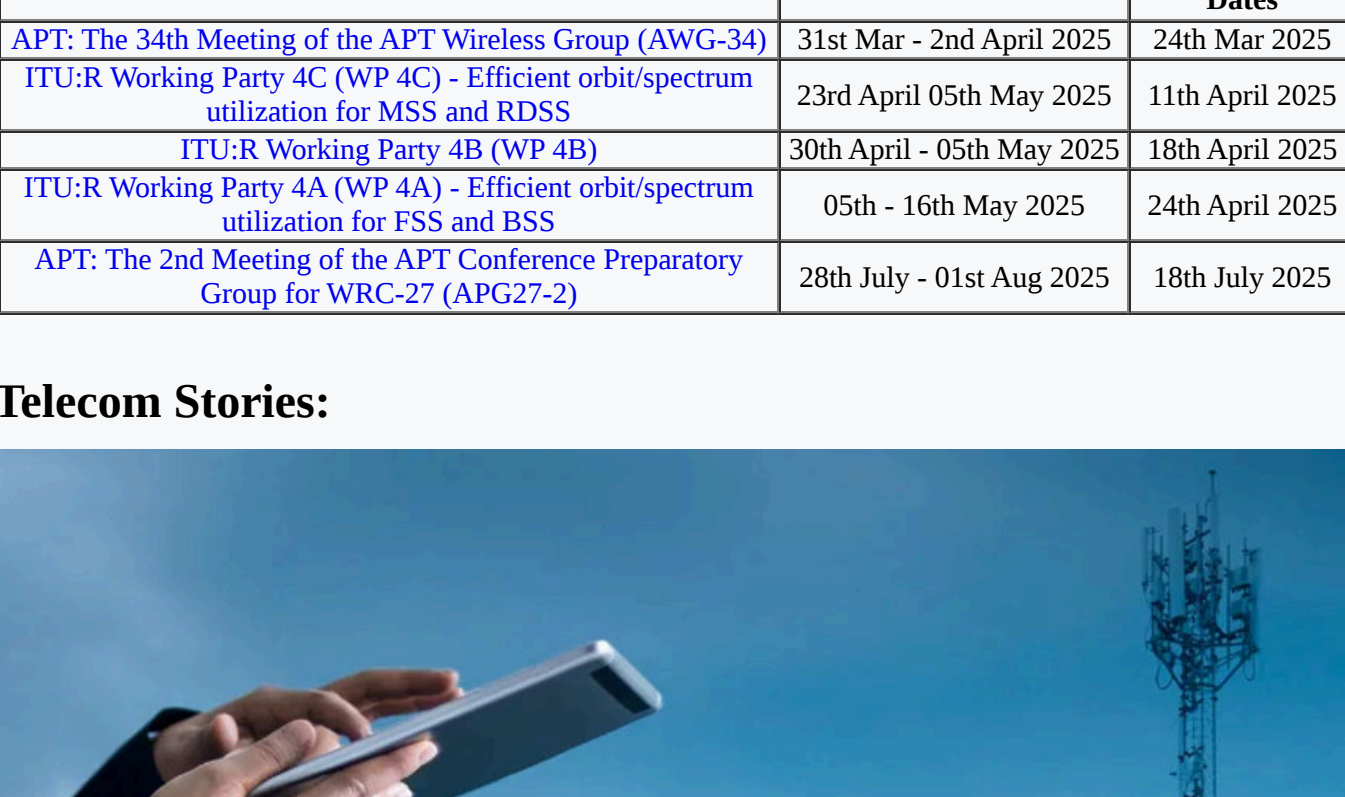


The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued its response to the back-reference received from DoT in respect of TRAI's recommendations dated 24.04.2024 on 'Telecommunication Infrastructure Sharing, Spectrum Sharing, and Spectrum Leasing'. DoT, through a reference dated 07.12.2021, requested TRAI to provide recommendations on allowing sharing of core network elements such as MSC, HLR, IN etc., among telecom operators. Subsequently, DoT, again a reference dated 10.02.2022, informed TRAI that "to promote optimum resource utilization among the licensees, it is proposed to allow sharing of all kinds of telecom infrastructure and network elements among all categories of service providers for provision of authorized telecom services", and requested TRAI to provide recommendations on the subject. Considering the request of stakeholders to permit inter-band spectrum sharing and leasing of spectrum in the country, the TRAI decided to take up the issues related to spectrum sharing and spectrum leasing along with the issues related to infrastructure sharing in the stakeholders' consultation. After a comprehensive consultation with stakeholders, TRAI sent its recommendations on 'Telecommunication Infrastructure Sharing, Spectrum Sharing, and Spectrum Leasing' to DoT on 24.04.2024. Subsequently, DoT, through a back-reference dated 13.02.2025, informed TRAI that these recommendations may not be accepted or may need modification are being referred back to TRAI for its reconsideration. After a careful examination, TRAI has sent its response to the back-reference to DoT on 25-03-2025.

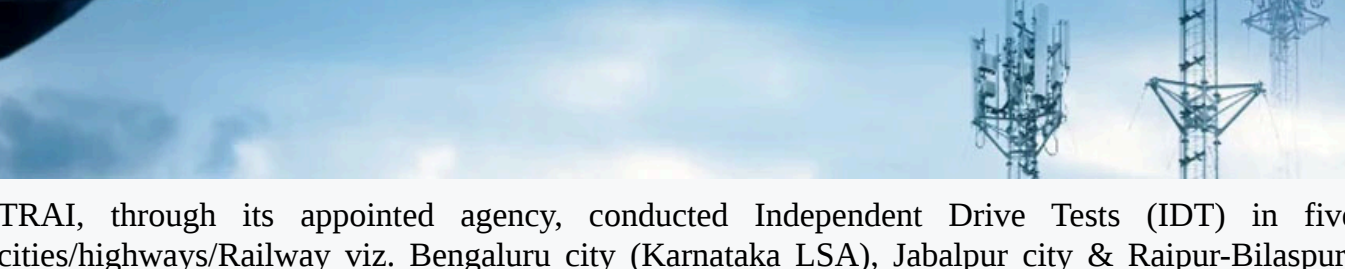
### Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
APT: The 34th Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-34)	31st Mar – 2nd April 2025	24th Mar 2025
ITU-R Working Party 4C (WP 4C) - Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for MSS and RDSS	23rd April –05th May 2025	11th April 2025
ITU-R Working Party 4B (WP 4B)	30th April – 05th May 2025	18th April 2025
ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP 4A) - Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for FSS and BSS	05th - 16th May 2025	24th April 2025
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2)	28th July - 01st Aug 2025	18th July 2025

### Telecom Stories:



TRAI, through its appointed agency, conducted Independent Drive Tests (IDT) in five cities/highways/Railway viz. Bangalore city (Karnataka LSA), Jabalpur city & Raipur-Bilaspur-Raigarh Highway (MP LSA), Delhi city & Sohna to Dausa Highway (Delhi LSA), Vijayawada-Guntur city & Hyderabad - Vijayawada Highway (Andhra Pradesh LSA) and Jaipur Junction to Madhopur, Punjab Railway route (Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi & Punjab LSA). Drive tests were conducted to assess the quality of service provided by Cellular Mobile Telephone Service providers for voice and data services in January-2025.

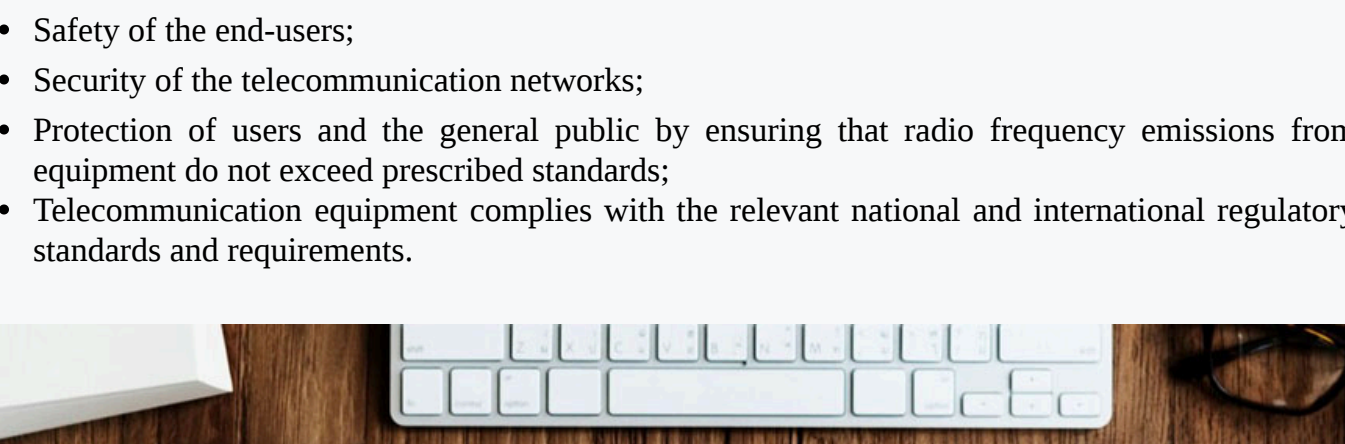


## Mandatory Testing & Certification of Telecom Equipment (MTCTE) Portal

The draft Telecommunications (Standards, Conformity Assessment and Certification) Rules, 2025 has been proposed in suppression of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2017, "Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2017" vide G.S.R. 1131(E) PART XI prescribes for Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecommunication Equipment (MTCTE) and is already in force w.e.f. 01.10.2018.

It ensures that the telecommunication equipment used/connected to telecommunication network conform to all the prescribed standards including EMUEMC, Safety, Security Requirements, interoperability and other technical Requirement. The main objectives are given below:

- Telecommunication equipment does not degrade the performance of the existing network to which it is connected;
- Safety of the end-users;
- Security of the telecommunication networks;
- Protection of users and the general public by ensuring that radio frequency emissions from equipment do not exceed prescribed standards;
- Telecommunication equipment complies with the relevant national and international regulatory standards and requirements.



The government is unlikely to make any changes to the data storage and cross-border data transfer norms mentioned in the draft of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP) Rules, sources said.

In an extensive consultation process that ended earlier this month, major tech companies and their representative industry bodies expressed reservations on a clause, which proposes that based on the recommendations of a government-appointed committee, some kind of data may not be allowed to be transferred out of India or stored outside the country's geographical limits.

Also, the need for liberalization in digital services, including data localization and cross-border data transfer norms in the DPDP Rules, came up as part of negotiations on non-tariff barriers, between India and the US, while the two sides tried to hammer out a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), according to sources.

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