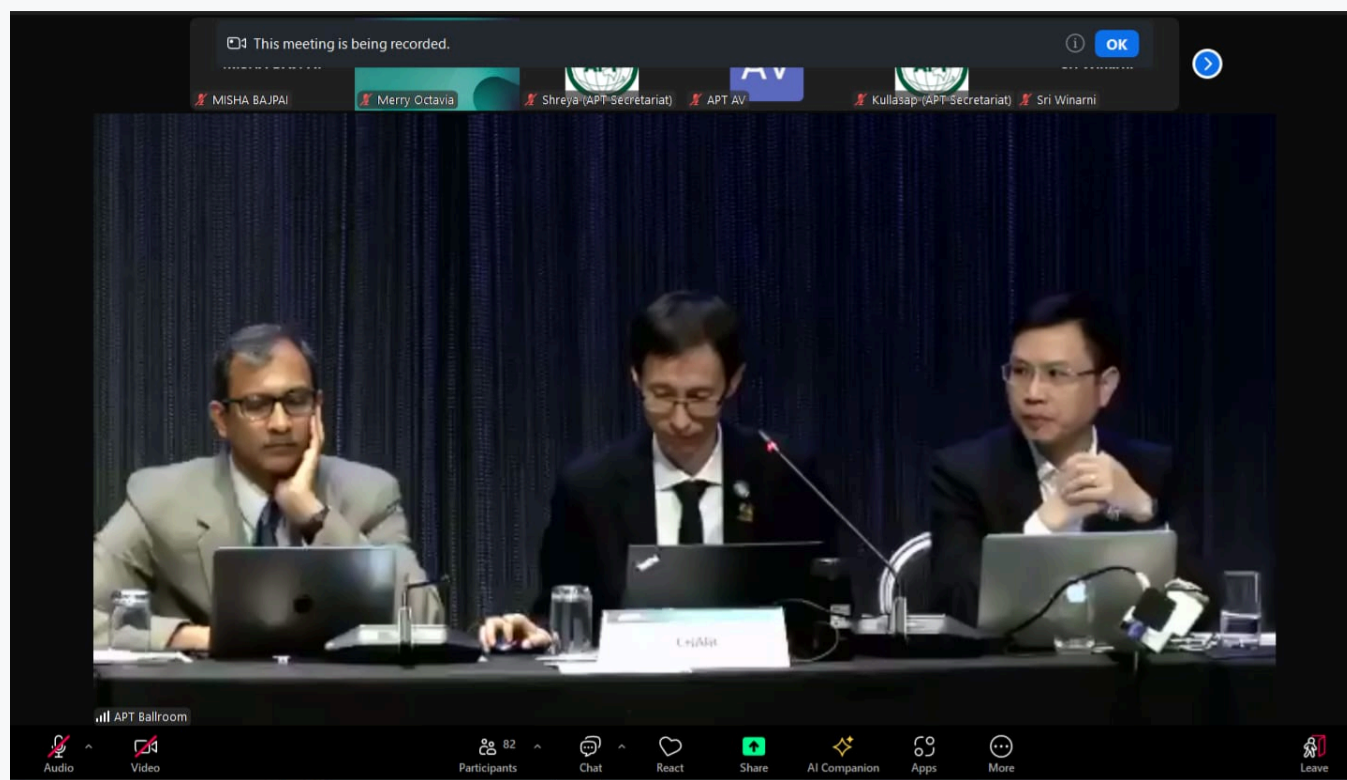


THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

The 4th Meeting of APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-4)



Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organized the 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-4) from 25 to 28 June 2024 in Adelaide, Australia with physical as well as virtual/online participation. The Meeting was organized by the APT and hosted by the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. Main objective of APT WTSA24-4 was to assist the APT members to identify and develop Preliminary APT Common Proposal (PACP) for WTSA-24, which will take place in New Delhi, India from 15 to 24 October 2024. IAFI along with India submitted 30 input contributions (INP-18 to INP-47), in the 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-2) held online/virtual from 05 to 06 Feb, 2024 and all contributions were again discussed in detail in the WTSA-24-3 meeting held from 30th April to 02nd May, 2024 at Cambodia. Based on the discussions in the meeting, India again submitted four modified contributions in the recently held WTSA-24-4 meeting (25-28 June, 2024) for consideration. After detailed deliberations, out of 30 resolutions presented by IAFI, India and IAFI together and India alone, 18 were upgraded to draft PACP and 2 as Candidate draft PACP. Remaining documents will be discussed in the final WTSA-24-5 meeting, likely to be held from 19th Aug to 23rd Aug, 2024 at Bangkok, Thailand. Details of the resolutions resented and finally approved are as follows.

Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI appointed as Chairman WG General Aspects of WP-5D at the 46th meeting of WP-5D at Geneva, Switzerland

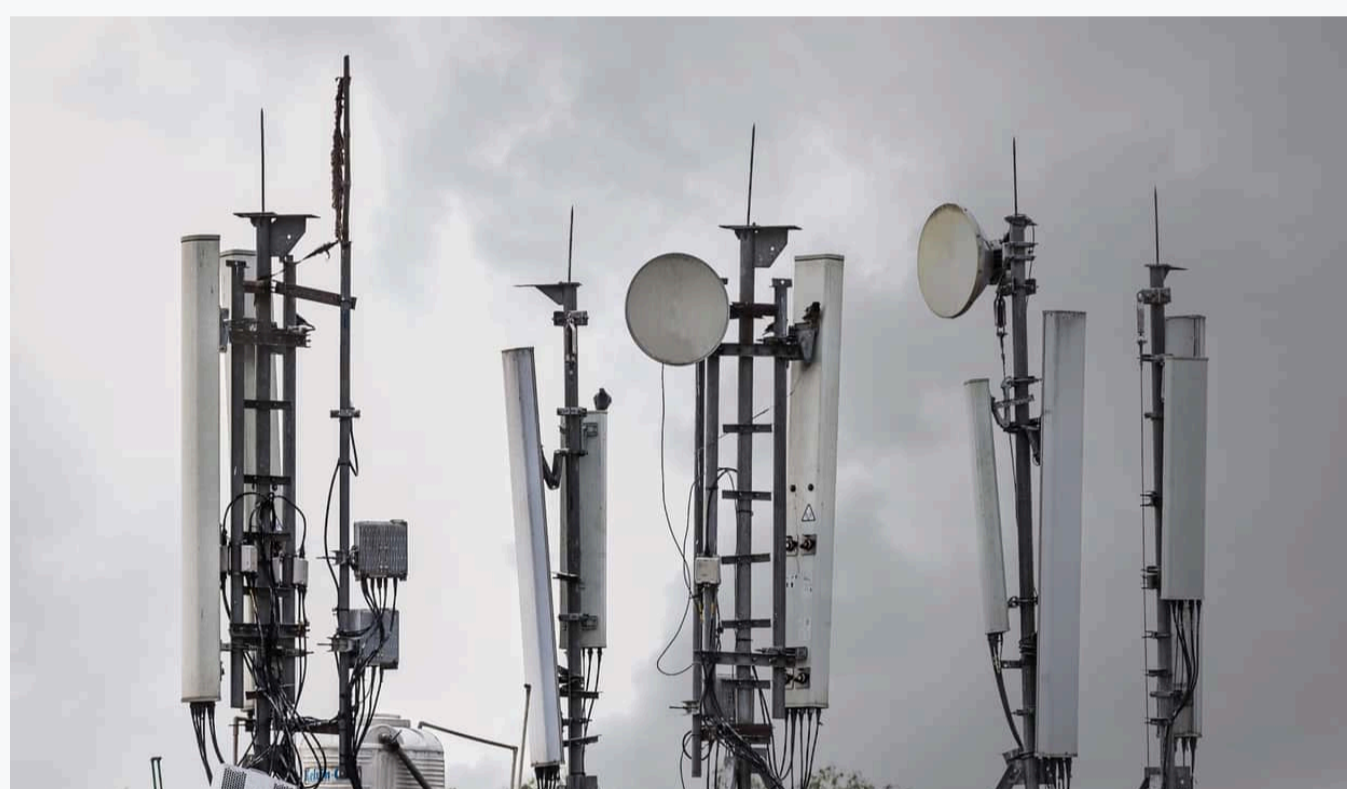


Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI), has been appointed Chairman of the Working Group - General Aspects of WP-5D/ITU-R. His appointment was announced during the opening plenary of the 46th WP-5D meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 25 to July 2, 2024, in recognition of his active participation across all major activities of all three ITU sectors. The meeting agenda was packed, addressing 168 contributions, including four submitted by IAFI and four carried over from the 45th WP-5D meeting. The work was divided among three working groups: General Aspect, Technology Aspect, and Spectrum Aspect and WRC preparations.

Working Group - General Aspects is responsible for developing ITU Reports and Recommendations on the 6G framework and all IMT usage scenarios of IMT. Shri Bhatia brings extensive experience to this role, having served as a spectrum regulator in the Government of India and played a pivotal role in formulating and implementing India's ICT policies as well as head of international spectrum at Motorola Solutions Inc. USA. He also holds the position of Vice Chairman of the World Wireless Research Forum (WWRF) for the Asia Pacific. Earlier he was also the President of TEMA. Throughout his career, he has chaired and vice-chaired numerous working groups and sub-working groups under both ITU and APT. WG General aspects is presently working on the 6G background document and the first circular inviting candidate technologies for IMT-2030 (6G)

Another key focus areas of discussions at this meeting was regarding Agenda Items 1.7 (new IMT frequency bands) and 1.13 (Spectrum for direct to mobile phone from satellites) of WRC-27.

Spectrum Auction in India



The latest spectrum auction in India concluded on June 27, 2024, after two days of bidding. The government netted ₹11,340 crore from the sale of 141.4 MHz of airwaves across various bands.

Key points:

Total bids: ₹11,340 crore, Total Spectrum sold: 141.4 MHz

Biggest bidder: Bharti Airtel (97 MHz for ₹6,857 crore)

Other bidders: Vodafone Idea (30 MHz for ₹3,510.4 crore), Reliance Jio (14.4 MHz for ₹973.62 crore)

In all, 10,523.2 MHz of radio-waves used for mobile services worth over Rs 96,238 crore were placed for the auction, started on 25th June, 2024. This auction saw significantly lower participation than previous ones, with only a fraction of the available spectrum being sold.

Band/Bidder-wise spectrum sold:

| S.No. | Name of the Bidder | 900 MHz | 1800 MHz | 2100 MHz | 2500 MHz | Total MHz |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | Bharti Airtel Ltd | 42.0 | 35.0 | 20.0 | - | 97.0 |
| 2 | Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd | - | 14.4 | - | - | 14.4 |
| 3 | Vodafone Ideal Ltd | 18.8 | 1.2 | - | 10.0 | 30.0 |
| Total | | 60.8 | 50.6 | 20.0 | 10.0 | 141.4 |

Band/Bidder-wise value of the spectrum sold (values are in crores)

| S.No. | Name of the Bidder | 900 MHz | 1800 MHz | 2100 MHz | 2500 MHz | Total MHz |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Bharti Airtel Ltd | 42,03825.00 | 2486.76 | 545.00 | - | 6856.76 |
| 2 | Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd | - | 973.62 | - | - | 973.62 |
| 3 | Vodafone Ideal Ltd | 3241.60 | 118.80 | - | 150.00 | 3510.40 |
| Total | | 7066.60 | 3579.18 | 545.00 | 150.00 | 11340.78 |

There was substantial demand for spectrum in the 800 MHz, and 1800 MHz bands.

The telecom department is expected to issue a demand note to Telcos this week for payment of spectrum they bought in the just-concluded auction. As per the terms of the bid document, the payments have to be made within ten days of the issue of the demand note.

TRAI Consultation Papers

| Consultation Papers | Submission Dates | Status |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Revision of National Numbering Plan | 04th July 2023 | Under Development |
| the Issues Related to Critical Services in the M2M Sector, and Transfer of Ownership of M2M SIMs | 22nd July 2023 | Under Development |

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

| Meeting | Dates | Submission Dates |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| ITU-R: Working Party 5D (WP 5D) | 25th June - 02nd July 2024 | 13th June 2024 |
| ITU-T SG15 - Networks, technologies and infrastructures for transport, access and home | 01st July - 12th July 2024 | 19th June 2024 |
| ITU-T: SG/WP3- Economic and Policy Issues | 09th July - 18th July 2024 | 28th June 2024 |
| ITU-T: SG/WP13- Future Networks | 15th July - 26th July 2024 | 03rd July 2024 |
| APT: The 24th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-24) | 16th July - 18th July 2024 | 06th July 2024 |
| APT: 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-1) | 19th July 2024 | 09th July 2024 |
| ITU-T: TSAG- Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group | 29th July - 02nd Aug 2024 | 17th July 2024 |
| APT: The 5th Meeting of APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-5) | 19th Aug - 23rd Aug 2024 | 09th Aug 2024 |
| ITU-R: Working Party 7D- Radio astronomy | 17th Sep - 26th Sep 2024 | 05th Sep 2024 |
| ITU-R: Working party 7B - Space radiocommunication applications | 18th Sep - 27th Sep 2024 | 06th Sep 2024 |

Telecom Stories:





The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has constituted six stakeholder advisory committees which will give inputs for fostering the growth of the sector and also for resolving key issues. The move was spearheaded by communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia (pictured), who took charge earlier this month. Committees have been constituted for original equipment makers (OEMs), telecom service providers (TSPs), the satellite communications ecosystem, internet service providers (ISPs), electronics, and an advisory committee of academicians and research and development in the telecommunications sector.



In the spectrum auction conducted by the Department of Telecommunications which concluded today, June 27, Jio acquired additional spectrum in the 1800 MHz band in Bihar and West Bengal. With this acquisition, Jio has expanded its 1800 MHz band spectrum in two circles. Jio's spectrum footprint has increased to 26,801 MHz (uplink + downlink).



Rules falling under the Telecommunications Act, 2013, will be in place in the next six months, senior sources at the Department of Telecommunications have said. They partially came into effect on Wednesday. Without the rules in place, many of the provisions of the Act can't be enforced, they added. A case in point, inter-ministerial consultations with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) will decide on the rules for intercepting and detaining messages.

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