

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

Meeting of the Focus Group on Costing Models for Affordable Data Services (FG-CD)



IAFI presented two contributions in the Focus Group on Costing Model for Affordable Data Services (FG-CD) meeting, held virtually on 26-11-2024. The FG-CD was established under ITU-T Study Group 3 on 10th March 2023. The Term of Reference (ToR) of the Focus Group is to analyse the supply-chain of telecom/ICT, the multiple cost models and pricing strategies used for mobile data services and Internet services and study the policy, economic, regulatory and standardization aspects related to cost models for affordable data services, including best practices of cost assessment methodologies and economic models.

IAFI presented following two contributions in the meeting.

1. FG-CD-I-065 - The Role of IPv6 in Optimizing Network Infrastructure and Reducing Internet Data Cost. Through this contribution, IAFI proposed that how the IPv6 is capable to reduce the cost of the internet data. India, with an impressive 83% IPv6 adoption rate, leads the world in IPv4 to IPv6 transition, also enjoys some of the most affordable internet data countries globally. This demonstrates the correlation between widespread IPv6 implementation and reduced costs for consumers.
2. FG-CD-I-064 – To analyse the challenges in providing Affordable Data in a Complex Market. IAFI has previously submitted a questionnaire for consideration. To facilitate more efficient data collection and analysis, it was proposed by the members that questioner attached should be in the yes/no format, to simplify the response submission and streamline the process of drawing meaningful inferences from the collected data.

Both the contributions were discussed and agreed by the member countries. It was agreed in the meeting that questioners proposed by the IAFI will be circulated by the ITU to all members for providing feedback.

IAFI letter to PMO to delicense lower 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi use

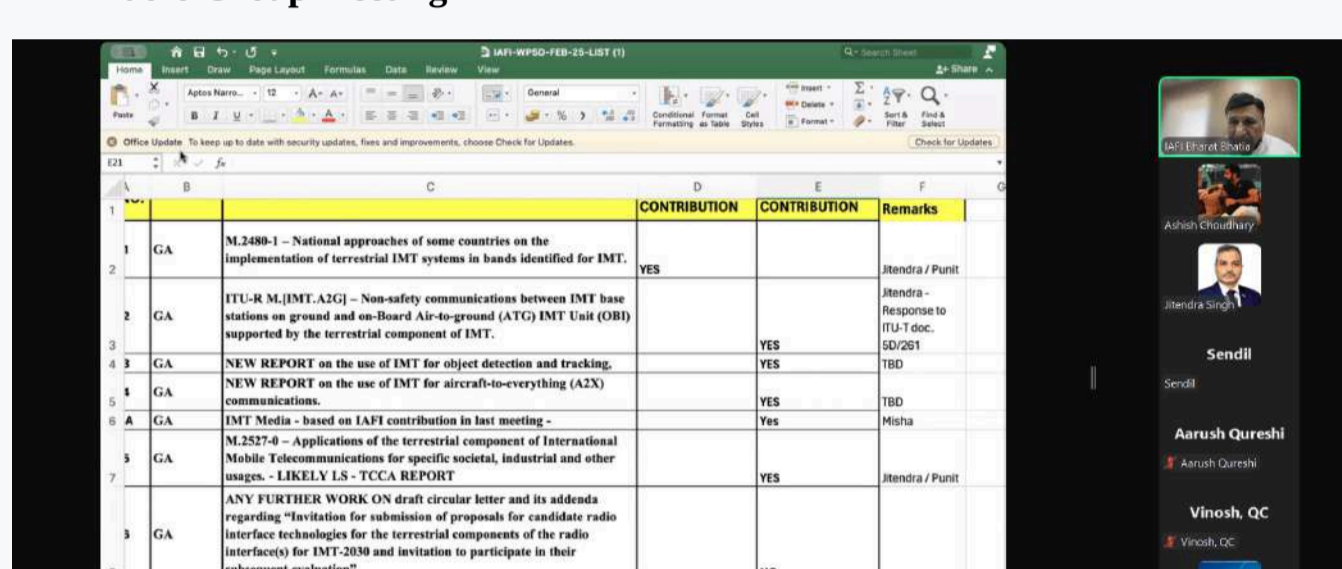


The IAFI in a letter to PMO urges to delicense the lower 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) for Wi-Fi 6E use, as it would generate significant economic benefits for India, estimated at US\$2.9 billion, by boosting local manufacturing, innovation, and exports of Wi-Fi 6E enabled devices.

IAFI in the letter shared a recent study presented at the 4th Indian Spectrum Management Conference 2024, a flagship event by the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI), reveals significant economic potential for India in the lower 6GHz band. Study conducted by Prof. Raul Katz, a leading telecom expert, estimates the value of the 5925-6425 MHz band to the Indian economy at US\$2.9 billion (Rs. 24467 Crores). This finding underscores the importance of delicensing this band for Wi-Fi 6E to unlock substantial economic benefits for the country.

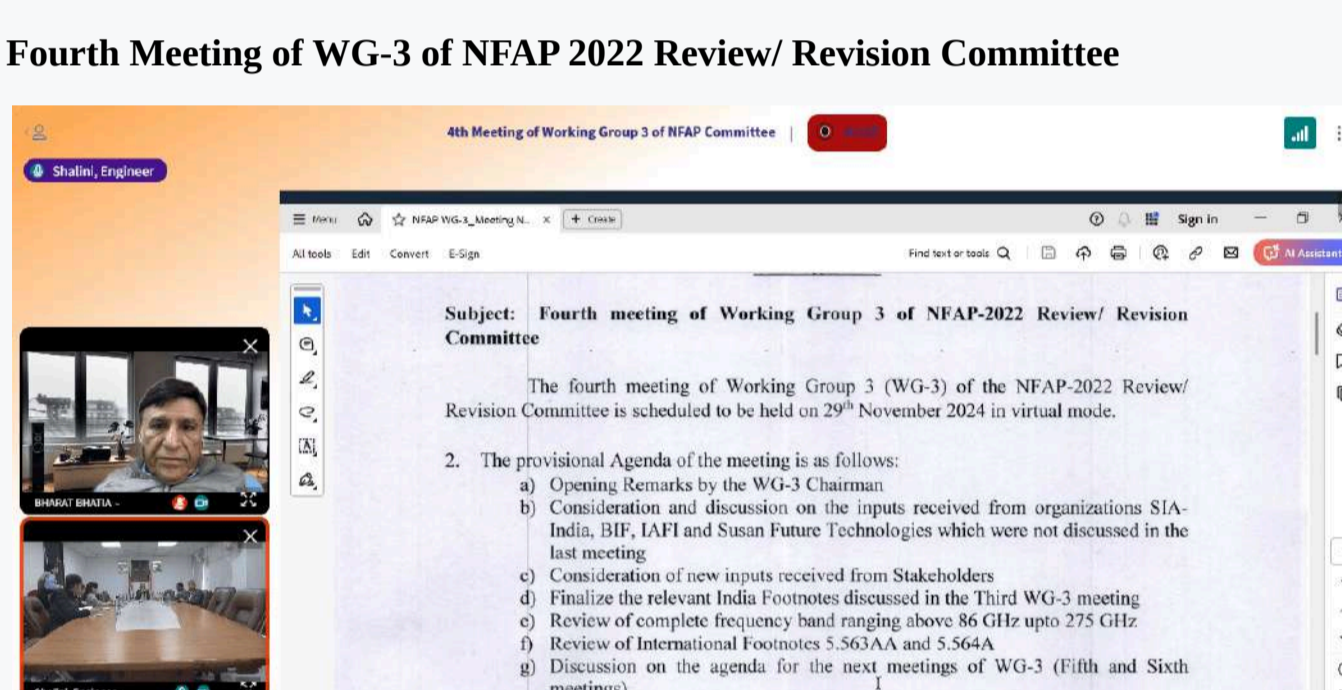
Delicensing would also align India with global trends, as most of the countries have already opened this band for unlicensed use. Wi-Fi 6E offers faster speeds, improved latency, and reduced congestion, crucial for various applications and industries. It also promotes digital inclusion by enabling wider internet access and fosters a thriving tech innovation ecosystem. Despite potential opposition from mobile operators, the urgency to delicense the 6 GHz band is critical for India's technological advancement and economic growth. IAFI urges for immediate action to secure this valuable spectrum resource to empower India's digital future and humbly requested to kindly announce the lower 6 GHz band for license exempt use of Wi-Fi urgently so that software and hardware exporters in India could access this huge global market.

IAFI Radio Group meeting



The IAFI Radio Group meeting was convened on November 27, 2024, in hybrid format, to identify and finalize topics, on which IAFI can submit contributions for the upcoming meetings of the Working Party 5D (WP-5D) of ITU-R, tentatively scheduled for 04-13 February, 2024. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI chaired the meeting. Total 18 potential issues were discussed in the meeting and 12 issues were ultimately selected for submission. It may be noted that the deadline for submission of the contribution is 23-01-2025.

Fourth Meeting of WG-3 of NFAP 2022 Review/ Revision Committee



Fourth meeting of Working Group 3 (WG-3) of the NFAP-2022 Review/ Revision Committee was held on 29th November 2024, under the chairmanship of Shri M.K.Pattanaik, JWA, WPC in a hybrid mode. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI participated in the meeting. IAFI proposed modifications to the India Footnote IND-17 concerning frequency bands 14-14.5 GHz, 28.5-30 GHz, 10.7-11.7 GHz, 12.5-12.75 GHz and 17.7-20.2 GHz for ESIM services. IAFI submitted one more input contribution for simplification of the IND Remark IND-16. In addition, IAFI submitted one more document regarding delicensing of upper 6 GHz band from 6425-7025 MHz for Wi-Fi usage, as 90 countries has already delicensed the same. Contributions submitted by SIA-India, BIF, IAFI and Susan Future Technologies were discussed. Meeting reviewed the complete frequency band ranging from 86 GHz to 275 GHz. Meeting also discussed to review the International Footnotes 5.563AA and 5.564A. Agenda for the next WG-3 meetings (fifth and sixth) was also discussed. It was suggested that parts of the NFAP, beyond the frequency allocation tables and footnotes, require further review and improvement. To address this, the formation of a separate ad-hoc group was proposed.

Third Meeting of WG-2 of NFAP 2022 Review/ Revision Committee



Third meeting of Working Group 2 (WG-2) of the NFAP-2022 Review/ Revision Committee was held on 27th November 2024, under the chairmanship of Shri N K Bhola, JWA and Director WMO, in a hybrid mode. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI participated in the meeting in WPC office. IAFI proposed modifications to the India Footnote IND-16 concerning various IMT frequency bands towards simplification of this IND Remark. In addition, IAFI submitted one more document regarding CV2X/ITS band in 5GHz. Detailed discussions were held on various proposals.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

| Meeting | Dates | Submission Dates | IAFI Preparatory Meetings |
|---|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| ITU-D TDAG Working Group on the Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC) | 02nd Dec 2024 | 20th Nov 2024 | - |
| ITU-R Study Group 5 (SG 5) | 02nd - 03rd Dec 2024 | 20th Nov 2024 | - |
| ITU-R ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar 2024 (WRS-24) | 02nd - 06th Dec 2024 | 20th Nov 2024 | - |
| ITU-D TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ) | 03rd Dec 2024 | 21st Nov 2024 | - |
| APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-2) | 10th - 11th Dec 2024 | 30th Nov 2024 | - |
| ITU-D Extra-ordinary Meeting of the TDAG | 23rd Jan 2025 | 11th Jan 2025 | - |
| APT: SATRC Workshop on Spectrum | 21st - 23rd Jan 2025 | 11th Jan 2025 | - |
| ITU-R Working Party 5D (WP 5D) | 04th - 13rd Feb 2025 | 24th Jan 2025 | 12th Dec 2024 |
| APT: The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-3) | 17th - 18th Mar 2025 | 07th Mar 2025 | - |
| ITU-D Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia & Pacific for WTDC-25 | 20th - 21st Feb 2025 | 08th Feb 2024 | - |
| APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-2) | 10th - 11th Dec 2024 | 30th Nov 2024 | - |

Telecom Stories:

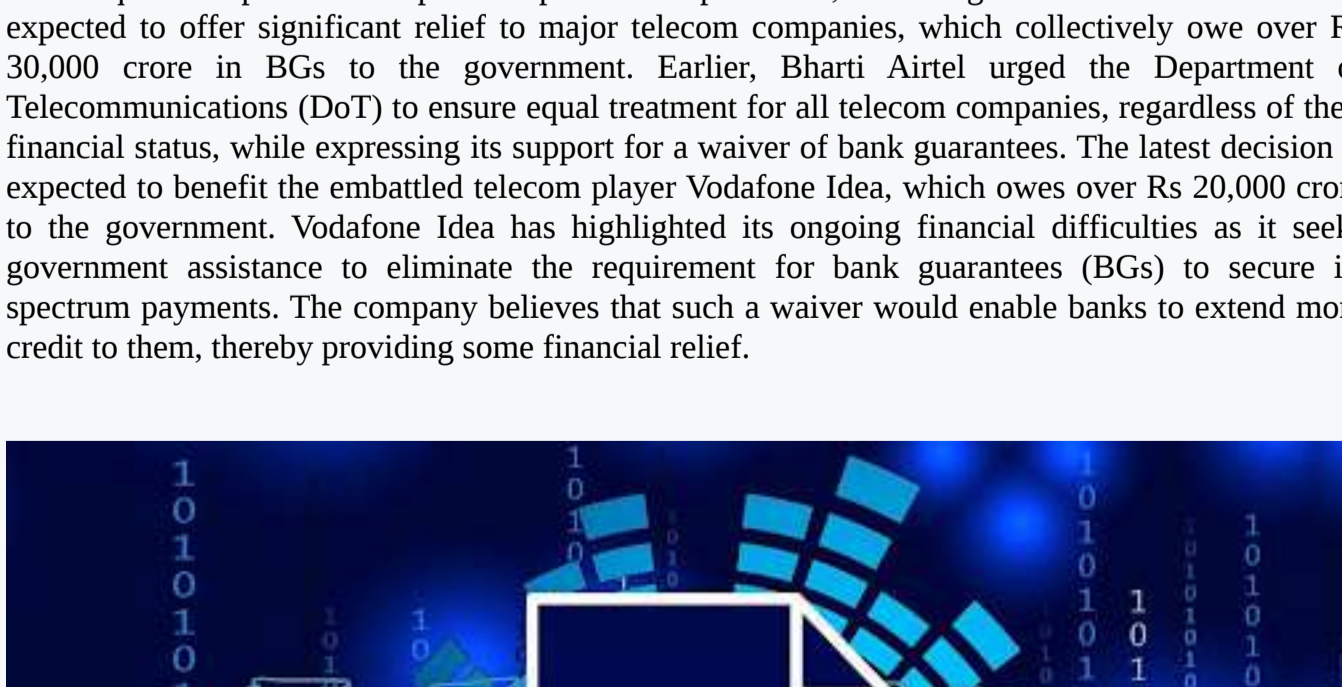


Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Wednesday that existing laws need to be strengthened to curb vulgar content on social media and over-the-top (OTT) platforms. Responding to questions by the BJP's Meerut MP Arun Govil during the Question Hour in Lok Sabha, Vaishnav said the parliamentary standing committee should take up the issue and also called for a consensus to frame stricter laws in this regard.

In his question, Govil stated that vulgar content on OTT platforms and social media damages moral values and culture. He asked about existing mechanisms to check the illegal telecast of vulgar content through social media platforms and whether the government proposes to make the existing laws more stringent, considering that they are not effective in stopping the misuse of these platforms.



The Bank has approved a proposal to waive the bank guarantees (BG) that telecom operators were required to provide for spectrum purchases up to 2022, according to sources. This decision is expected to offer significant relief to major telecom companies, which collectively owe over Rs 30,000 crore in BGs to the government. Earlier, Bharti Airtel urged the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to ensure equal treatment for all telecom companies, regardless of their financial status, while expressing its support for a waiver of bank guarantees. The latest decision is expected to benefit the embattled telecom player Vodafone Idea, which owes over Rs 20,000 crore to the government. Vodafone Idea has highlighted its ongoing financial difficulties as it seeks government assistance to eliminate the requirement for bank guarantees (BGs) to secure its spectrum payments. The company believes that such a waiver would enable banks to extend more credit to them, thereby providing some financial relief.



Telecom operators have urged the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) to promptly notify the draft guidelines aimed at preventing spam calls and messages. In a letter to DoCA Normans Nidhi Khare, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has pointed out that the norms can plug gaps in the current regulatory regime. A DoCA committee had earlier this year come out with the draft guidelines, which recommended action against the source of spam calls and messages. This proposal has been supported by COAI, which represents private sector operators Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea.

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