THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY
IAFI News

4th meeting of National Working Party (NWP) 5D-1/2/3

Meetings of the NWP-5D-1, 2 and 3, constituted under the WPC wing of DoT, to prepare India's contributions to the forthcoming meeting of ITU-R WP5D.

Key areas of study in WP5D are WRC-27 agenda 1.7 as well studies related to standardization of 6G – IMT2030

Agenda 1.7 of WRC-27 is " to consider studies on sharing and compatibility and develop technical conditions for the use of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) in three frequency bands 4 400-4 800 MHz, 7 125-8 400 MHz (or parts thereof), and 14.8-15.35 GHz taking into account existing primary services operating in these, and adjacent, frequency bands, in accordance with Resolution COM6/26 (WRC-23)".

These frequency bands are also allocated to the radio-communication services on a primary basis and that those allocations are used by a variety of incumbent systems in many administrations, so during the meeting of 46th WP-5D, Indian administration through their contribution WP-5D/221 proposed that since the candidate frequency ranges involve very diverse incumbent services, it is proposed that WP 5D should consider grouping the sharing and compatibility studies in three separate documents. So, the meeting finally agreed to distribute the sharing studies towards WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.7 in three separate working documents for each of the band (4 400 – 4 800 MHz; 7 125 – 8 400 MHz; and 14.8-15.35 GHz.

These meetings considered a number of input contributions and finalized 5 contributions.

Commencement of AWG-33 meeting from 09th September, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) has organized the 33rd Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-33) from 09 to 13 September 2024 in Bangkok, in a hybrid mode, to discuss 105 input documents. Indian administration submitted the two contributions, while IAFI submitted the following four contributions in the meeting.

1. Working Document towards a draft new report on usage of cooperative vehicle-infrastructure its 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 WAS/RLAN technology, use cases, spectrum demand and regulatory development.
3. Proposed further updates to 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.

47th meeting of the WP-5D

47th WP-5D meeting will be held from 03-10-2024 to 11-10-2024 at Geneva, Switzerland in a hybrid mode. Following agenda was finalize during 46th meeting, to be discussed in the 47th meeting

1. Finalize Characteristics of the terrestrial component of IMT for sharing and compatibility studies in preparation for WRC-27 for all other bands than 14.8-15.35 GHz.
2. Finalize IMT-2030 circular letter
   a. Provide/Finalize initial-version/1st-release of Document IMT-2030/2 "Process".
   b. Finalize draft new Recommendations ITU-R on "Unwanted emission characteristics of base/mobile stations using the terrestrial radio interfaces of IMT-2020

In addition, a joint session between Working Parties 4C and 5D, in the afternoon of 10th October 2024, taking the advantage of an overlap in the scheduled meetings of the two Working Parties in Geneva, as the meeting of the WP-4C will be from 10-10-2024 to 18-10-2024.

The deadline for submission of contributions to the WP-5D is Saturday, 21 September 2024, 1600 Hrs UTC. IAFI will hold its first preparatory meeting on 11th September from 1130 AM IST on zoom

TRAI/Access Providers cracks down on spam callers

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has reported a substantial increase in spam calls, with over 7.9 lakh complaints filed against Unregistered Telemarketers (UTMs) in the first half of 2024 alone. To curb the rising tide of unsolicited promotional calls, TRAI issued a stern directive on August 13th to all telecom access providers. The regulator mandated that providers immediately cease such calls from unregistered marketers using SIP, PRI, or other telecom resources.

In response to TRAI's directive, telecom access providers have taken stringent measures against spammers. They have blacklisted 50 companies and disconnected 2.75 lakh telecom resources, demonstrating their commitment to combating this issue. Additionally, the regulator has threatened to blacklist unregistered telemarketers who fail to comply.

TRAI anticipates that these decisive actions will significantly reduce the prevalence of spam calls, providing much-needed relief to users. The regulator has urged all stakeholders to adhere to the guidelines and contribute to a smooth and efficient telecom system.

On August 28th, TRAI released a consultation paper proposing amendments to its anti-spam rules. One of the key proposals involves implementing a tariff for phone calls and text messages sent from ten-digit mobile numbers that exceed a daily limit.
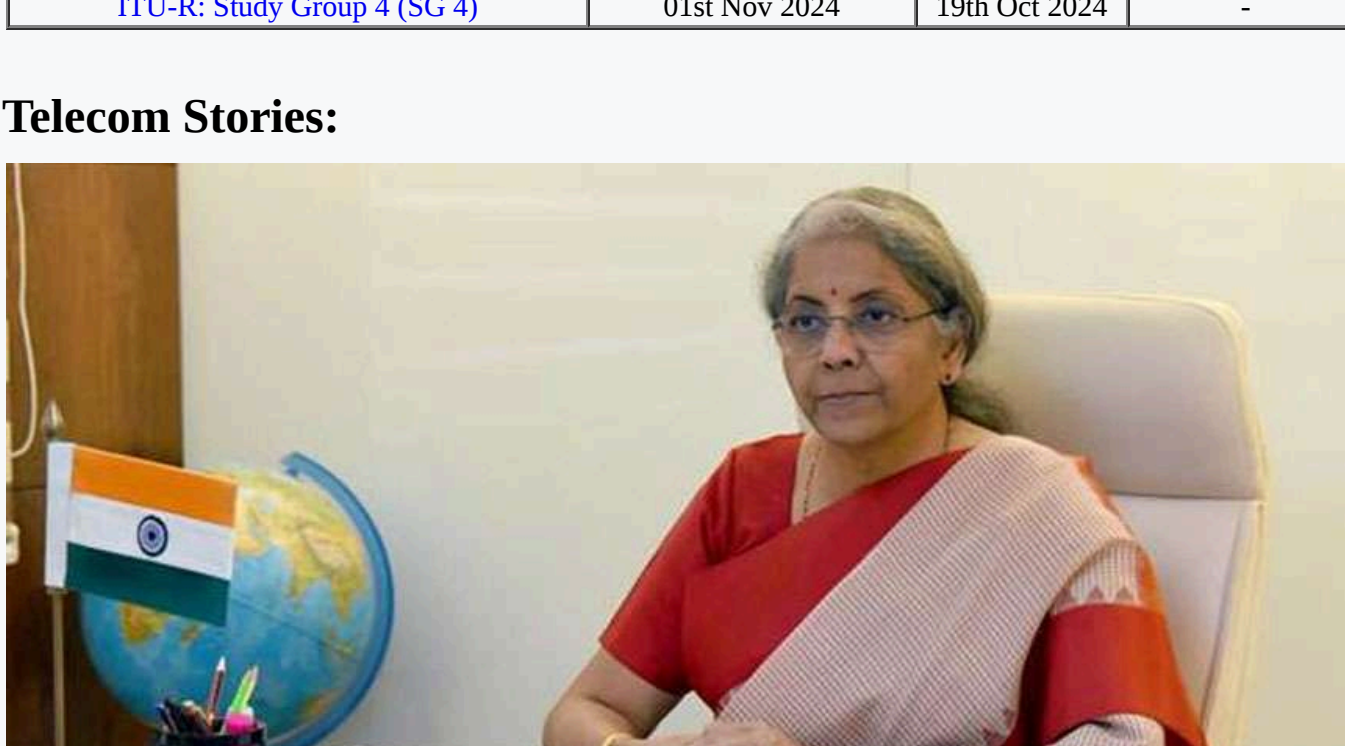
TRAI Consultation Papers

Consultation Papers	Submission Dates	Status	Submission
Review of the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018	25th Sep 2024	Under Development	-

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

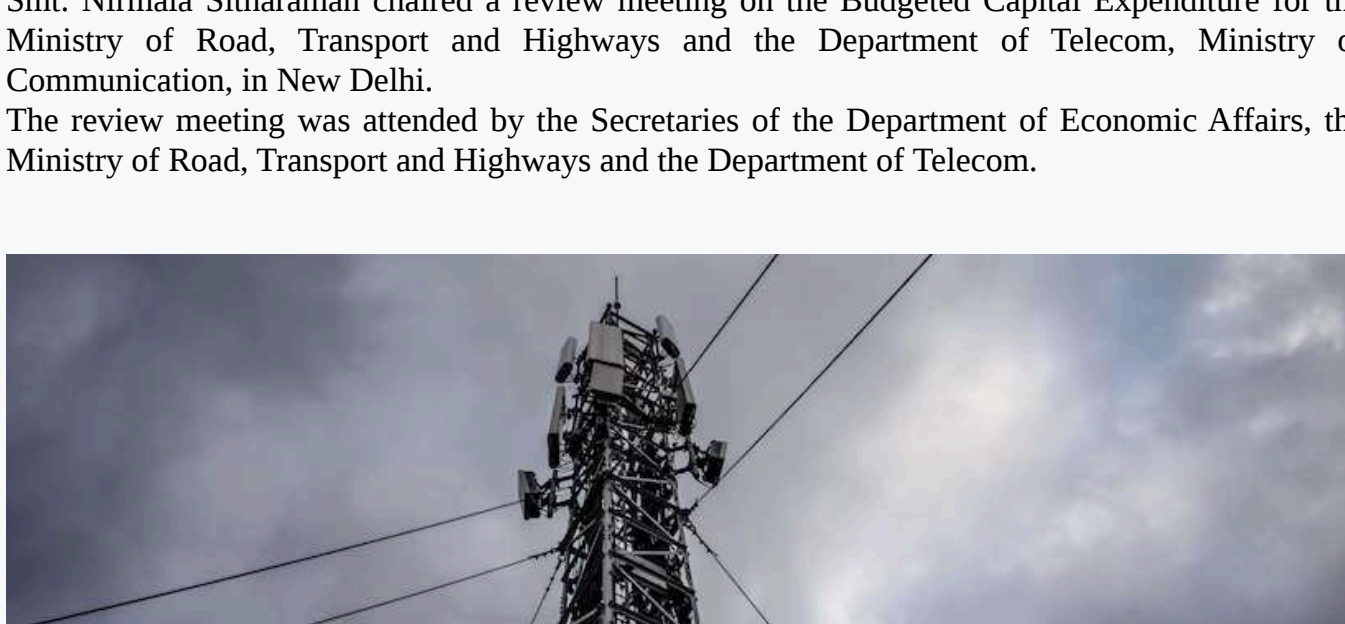| Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI Preparatory Meetings
APT: The 33rd Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-33)	09th Sep - 13th Sep 2024	31st Aug 2024	-
ITU-R: Working Party 7D- Radio astronomy	17th Sep - 26th Sep 2024	05th Sep 2024	-
ITU-R: Working party 7B - Space radiocommunication applications	18th Sep - 27th Sep 2024	06th Sep 2024	-
ITU-R: Working Party 7C - Remote sensing systems	18th Sep - 27th Sep 2024	06th Sep 2024	-
ITU-R: Working Party 5D (WP 5D) - IMT Systems	03rd Oct - 11th Oct 2024	22nd Sep 2024	11th Sep 2024
ITU-R: Working Party 4C (WP 4C)- Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for MSS and RDSS	10th Oct - 18th Oct 2024	29nd Sep 2024	-
ITU-R: Working Party 4B (WP 4B)	16th Oct - 22nd Oct 2024	04th Oct 2024	-
ITU-R: Working Party 4A (WP 4A)	21st Oct - 31st Oct 2024	09th Oct 2024	-
ITU-R: Study Group 4 (SG 4)	01st Nov 2024	19th Oct 2024	-

Telecom Stories:

A series of review meetings have been scheduled with Ministries/Departments with significant CapEx outlays. The meetings will be chaired by the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman to review the progress of Capital Expenditure (CapEx) in the coming days.
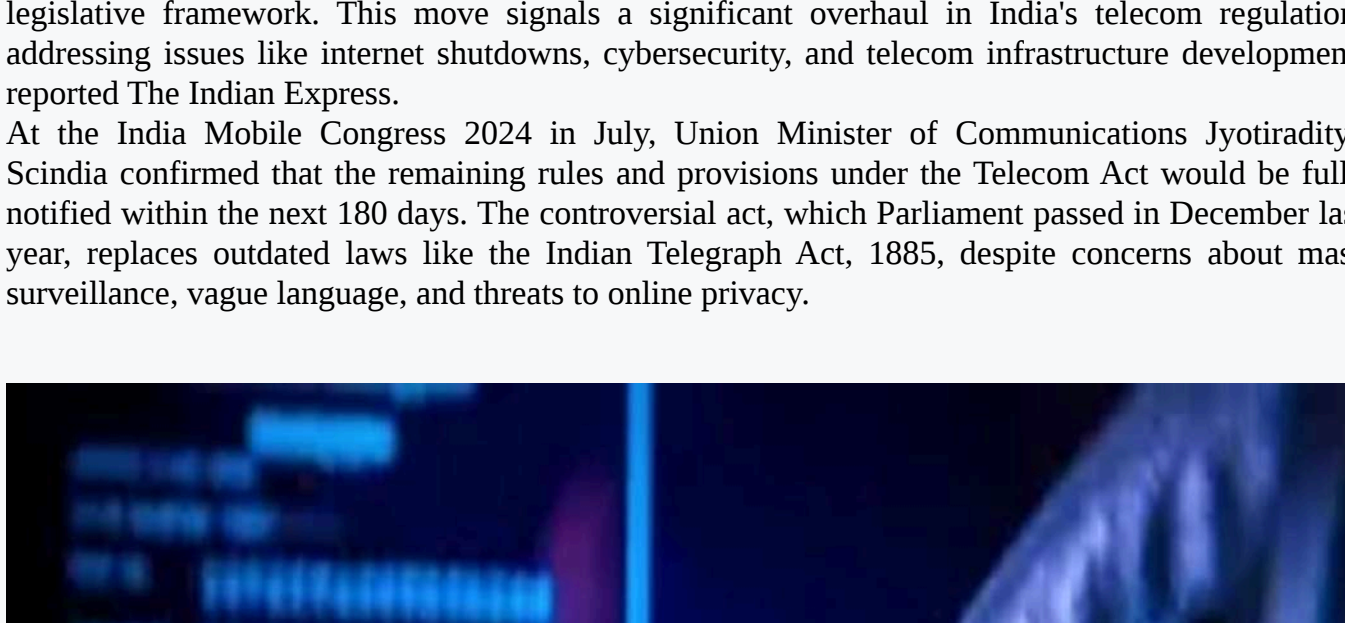
In the first such meeting held on September 3, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman chaired a review meeting on the Budgeted Capital Expenditure for the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways and the Department of Telecom, Ministry of Communication, in New Delhi.

The review meeting was attended by the Secretaries of the Department of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways and the Department of Telecom.

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 infrastructure development, reported The Indian Express.

At the India Mobile Congress 2024 in July, Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia confirmed that the remaining rules and provisions under the Telecom Act would be fully notified within the next 180 days. The controversial act, which Parliament passed in December last year, replaces outdated laws like the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, despite concerns about mass surveillance, vague language, and threats to online privacy.

The telecom regulator is pushing the Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity) to take strong steps to check rampant instances of spam and phishing communications that are rapidly shifting to over-the-top (OTT) apps, such as WhatsApp and Telegram.

The OTT apps currently fall under MeitY's mandate in terms of regulatory compliance- not under The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai)Tand the telecom department. The latter have been taking several steps to check the menace of pesky calls and messages which are used to perpetrate financial fraud as well.