

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

4th India's Spectrum Management Conference-2024 (ISMC-2024)



The 4th India Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC-24), IAFI's premier annual mega event, took place on November 7th and 8th, 2024 at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi. This year's conference brought together 200 participants, including 16 international experts and 45 Indian spectrum experts from different organizations, to engage in comprehensive discussions on critical spectrum-related challenges and opportunities. ISMC-24 served as a vital platform for in-depth analysis of spectrum policy, allocation, pricing, utilization, and future trends, with a focus on international best practices and their relevance for India. The conference fostered high-level networking among key stakeholders, shaping the future of India's spectrum ecosystem. The Inaugural session was honoured by the presence of distinguished leaders such as Mr. Mario Maniewicz (Director, Radio Communication Bureau, ITU), Mr. Masanori Kondo (Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity), and senior officials from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ms. Madhu Arora, Member Technology, DCC, DoT, Shri Rohit Sharma, Member (Services), DCC, DoT, Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI and Shri V J Christopher, Wireless Advisor to the Govt. of India & Head, WPC Wing, DoT. Eight sessions were arranged to discuss issues regarding WRC-27 preparations, Chaired by Mr. Alexander Kuhn, Chairman CPM-27, discussing the spectrum roadmap for growth of 4G, 5G, and 6G mobile services in India, Chaired by Mr. MPS Alava, Spectrum Auctions moderated by Shri Pankaj Sharma of E&Y, Spectrum needs of Broadcasting, PMSE and Radio Astronomy Chaired by Shri Viresh Goyal, importance of spectrum in Digital India and ubiquitous connectivity chaired by Ms. Isabelle Mauro DG, GSOA and the session on spectrum for satellite services Chaired by Shri Amit Gulati, Sr. DWA, WPC. The final session was chaired by Shri R.K. Upadhyaya, CEO, C-DoT regarding "Workshop on 6G". Many prominent speakers Dr. Sendil Kumar Devar, Director, Standards and Spectrum, Ericsson, Mr. Stuart Ardito, Spectrum Group Chairman, GSA, UK, Dr. Vinosh Babu James, Director, Technical Standards, Qualcomm, Dr. Stuart Cooke, Senior Director of Future Spectrum, GSMA, UK, Prof Radhakrishnan Ganti, IIT Chennai, Shri A. Jishnu, Principal Product Architect, Tejas Networks, Shri Prashant Kumar, DDG CA TEC, DOT, Prof Pares Saxena, Associate Professor, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad, Prof Rajeev Shorey, Director, IIIT Surat, Professor Monisha Ghosh, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Notre Dame, USA shared insightful thoughts. Shri R.K. Pathak, DG, Bharat 6G Alliance act as the session coordinator and moderator. Closing remarks and vote of thanks was delivered by Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI.

Indian Space Association (ISpA)



IAFI participated in the three-day event viz "Indian Space Conclave -2024" organized by Indian Space Association (ISpA) at Lalit Hotel, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi, from 05-07 Nov, 2024. Main issues discussed in the conference were-

1. Commercialization of Space: Opportunities and Challenges.
2. Advancing Space Communications and Global Partnerships.
3. Innovating, Security, and future Space Capabilities.

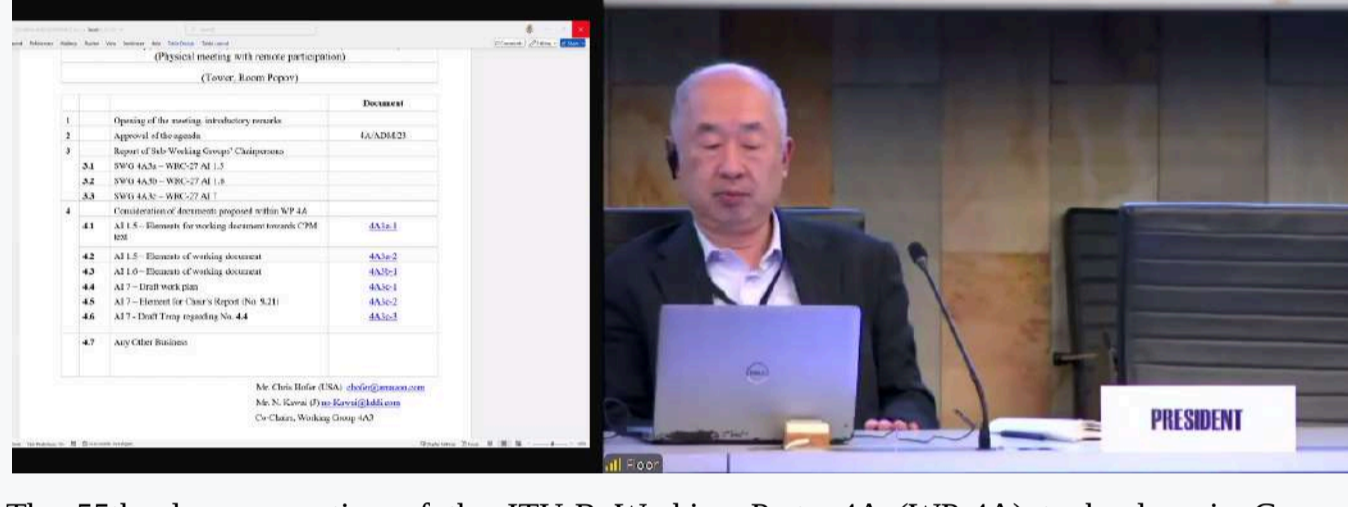
It was informed by the ISRO that India has planned to launch its first space station module by 2028, with the goal of completing a fully operational space station by 2035. Additionally, missions to the Moon, Venus, and Mars will further advance the country's capabilities, demonstrating technologies for soft landings and sample return missions that will be crucial for future crewed missions.

Open House Discussion organized by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)



The IAFI participated in a virtual Open House Discussion (OHD) hosted by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on November 8th, 2024. The discussion was centered on TRAI's Consultation Paper addressing "Terms and Conditions for the Assignment of Spectrum for Certain Satellite-Based Commercial Communication Services," which was released on September 27th, 2024. IAFI had already submitted its detailed comments on the paper on October 18th, 2024. The OHD convened a diverse group of stakeholders, including major telecom service providers, satellite operators, industry associations, and academia, to debate key issues mentioned in the paper. A central point of contention was the proposed spectrum assignment process for Non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO) satellites, as telecom service providers and COAI were advocating for an auction-based approach with reserve prices to be linked to previous 4G/5G spectrum auctions. Conversely, satellite players argued for administrative assignment without reserve prices and payments based on Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). This full-day event highlighted the contrasting perspectives on spectrum allocation for satellite-based communication services in India.

WP-4A Meeting from 21st Oct, 2024 to 31st Oct, 2024



The 55th plenary meeting of the ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP-4A) took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from October 21st to 31st, 2024. IAFI delegates participated virtually. WP-4A focused on optimizing orbit and spectrum use for the Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS) and Broadcasting-Satellite Service (BSS). IAFI submitted a significant contribution (C-165) containing a Working Document proposing regulatory measures to address the unauthorized operation of Non-Geostationary-Satellite Orbit (NGSO) Earth stations in the FSS and Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) bands.

IAFI's Working Document served as a key reference for the development of Working Document 4A/TEMP/89-E, prepared by the Chair of WP-4A3 and presented to the plenary. The document, was approved for further study, as it addresses the crucial issue of unauthorized NGSO Earth station operation. The next WP-4A meeting is scheduled for May 5th to 15th, 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Meeting of National Security Group-5 (NSG-5)



The 8th meeting of the NSG-5 (terrestrial services) convened on October 30th, 2024, at the Pushpa Bhawna conference hall in Khanpur, New Delhi, in hybrid mode. Meeting was chaired by Shri Gulab Chand, JWA. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI along with many senior industry representatives and stakeholders participated in the meeting. IAFI actively contributed, by submitting a Liaison Statement (LS) to both NWP-5A and NSG-5, addressing technical and operational characteristics related to Agenda Items 1.13 and 1.15 for WP-4C and WP-7B respectively. The meeting also deliberated on contributions from Qualcomm regarding revisions to ITU-R recommendations M.2121 and M.2444, as well as a proposal for WP-5A concerning Agenda Item 1.7. Meeting ended with vote of thanks from the chair.

Press Release by IAFI regarding Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 (TCCPR-2018)



On August 28th, 2024, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper on the "Review of the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018." IAFI, after careful examination and consultation with industry partners, submitted a detailed response to TRAI. IAFI argued that the consultation's scope is narrow, focusing only on a limited aspect of telecom commercial communications. IAFI strongly urged TRAI to develop a comprehensive framework to combat scam communications, emphasizing the urgent need to protect consumers. Scam calls and messages pose a significant threat, with thousands of Indians losing crores of rupees each month to fraudulent activities. In its response, IAFI highlighted the growing national concern of scam communications and recommended that TRAI expand the framework to address this critical issue.

Happy Deepawali



IAFI celebrated Happy Deepawali with festive cheer at its Barakhamba Road office in New Delhi on October 30th, 2024. The office was beautifully decorated with colorful flowers and twinkling lights, creating a vibrant and joyous atmosphere. All members participated in traditional Diwali puja rituals for the happiness and well-being of all. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI wished all Happy Deepawali and given the gifts to all the team members, fostering a sense of solidarity and shared celebration.

TRAI Consultation Papers

Consultation Papers	Submission Dates	Status	Submission
The Terms and Conditions of Network Authorizations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023	19th Nov 2024	-	-

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI Preparatory Meetings
ITU-R Working Party 6A (WP 6A)	05th - 13th Nov 2024	23th Oct 2024	-
APT: 25th Meeting of South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-25)	11th - 13th nov 2024	1st Nov 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:



New Delhi: In a bid to boost the Bharat 6G Vision, the government is working towards the development of a multi-port switch for a single broadband antenna that can cover all 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G bands. The developed technology can be used to cover all the bands like 2G, 3G, 4G, 5G and beyond in a single antenna without noise.

Towards this goal, the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the telecom R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), has collaborated with CSIR-Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute (CEERI), Pilani.



BENGALURU: Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance on Friday again asked the country's telecom regulator to check the feasibility of an auction for satellite spectrum allocation, weeks after the country clarified that it will allot spectrum administratively. Ravi Gandhi, a top policy executive with Reliance, said a move to allot satellite spectrum on a first-come first-serve basis is "flawed" and "discriminatory."

His comments came at an open house discussion on the topic, conducted by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), and also attended by representatives from including billionaire Elon Musk's Starlink and telecom firm Bharti Airtel.



To further ensure high-speed and ultra-low latency services required in 5G, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Saturday said it has signed an agreement with Linearized Amplifier Technology Services and Vedang Radio Tech.

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