

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

IAFI letter to MoC for setting-up regulatory sandbox for 6G R&D



Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a letter to Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Hon'ble Minister of Communication, formally requested the establishment of a regulatory sandbox framework for sixth-generation (6G) technology in India. This framework aims to accelerate 6G research and development by reserving specific spectrum bands for experimentation and controlled deployments.

The IAFI proposes reserving portions of the 6425-7125 MHz and 14.8-15.35 GHz ranges, and incorporating mechanisms like Licensed Shared Access (LSA) and Dynamic Spectrum Access (DSA) to allow innovators to test new technologies in a controlled regulatory environment.

In addition, IAFI also recommended immediately opening the 7025-8400 MHz and 14.8-15.35 GHz bands, to speed-up the research work, as these frequencies are crucial for building robust 6G networks and enabling applications like ultra-fast internet and next-generation IoT solutions.

Furthermore, the IAFI proposes delicensing certain spectrum bands for specific industries:

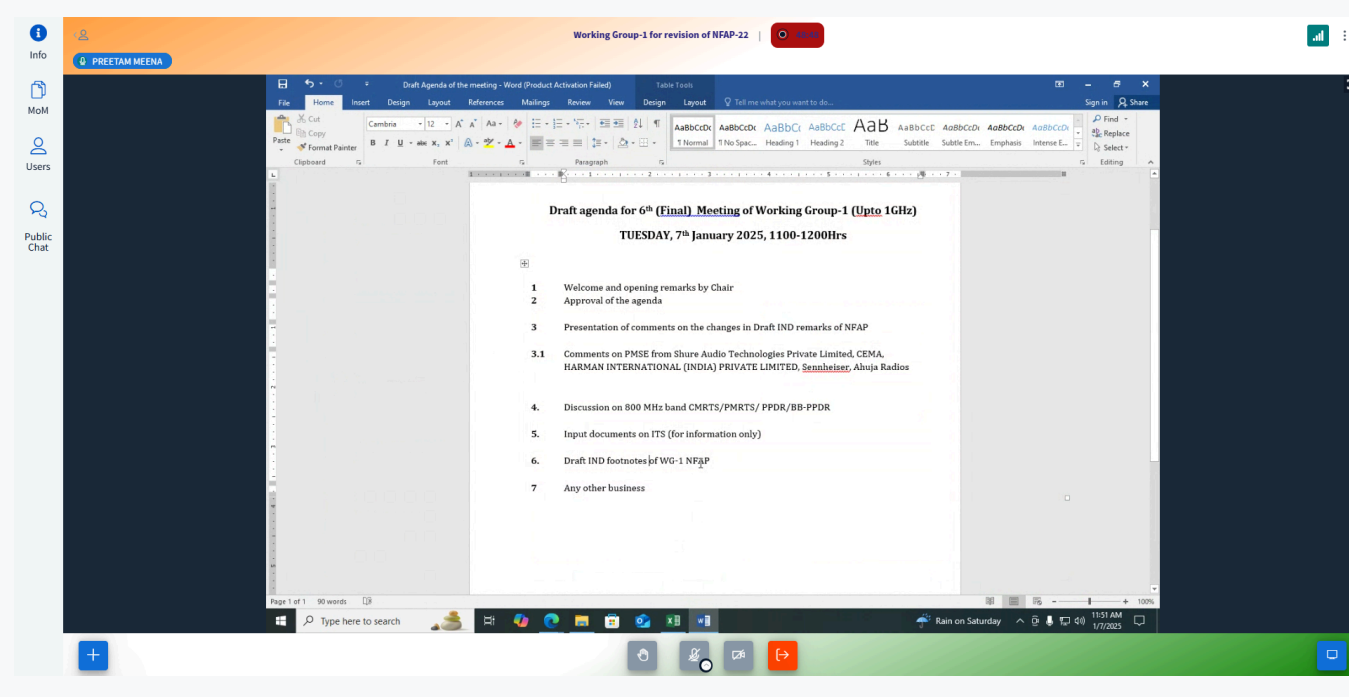
- 4940-5000 MHz - for localized industrial use.
- 5875-5925 MHz - for Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything (C-V2X) technology.
- 5925-6425 MHz - for indoor applications like AR/VR, high-speed RLAN, and AI-driven technologies.

By prioritizing the 7125-8400 MHz band for research, the IAFI believes India can lead the development of technologies that seamlessly integrate the physical, digital, and virtual worlds.

The IAFI's proposals underscore its dedication to ensuring India's dominance in the global race for 6G innovation, as India is poised on the brink of a technological revolution, and the strategic allocation of spectrum for 6G research and development is crucial for the nation to lead the charge.

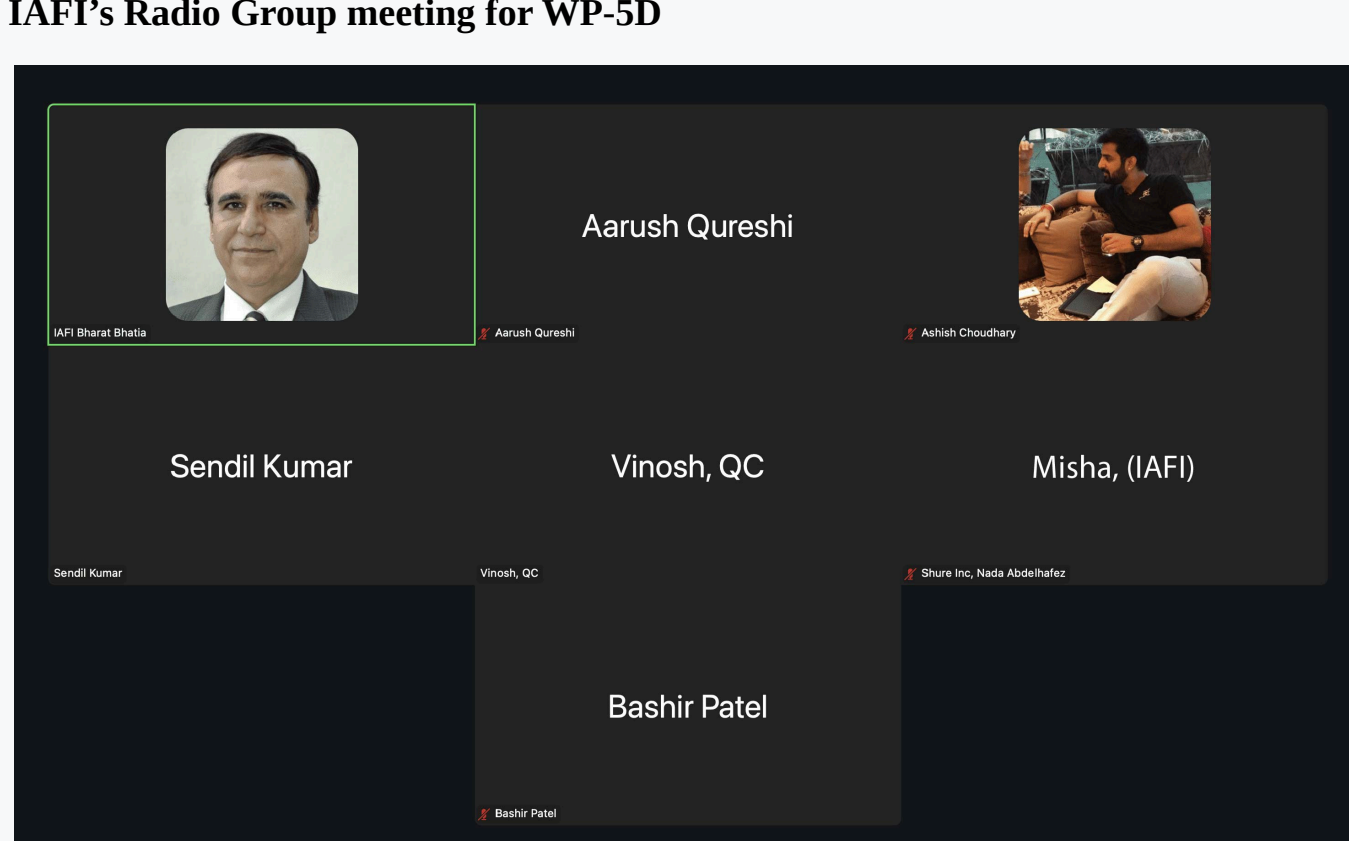
[Read More: https://telecom.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/policy/set-up-regulatory-sandbox-framework-for-6g-rd-iafi-to-scindia/117082198](https://telecom.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/policy/set-up-regulatory-sandbox-framework-for-6g-rd-iafi-to-scindia/117082198)

7th / Final Meeting of the Working Group -1(WG-1) of NFAP-2022



The seventh and final meeting of Working Group-1 (Frequencies up to 1 GHz) of the NFAP-2022 Review/Revision Committee convened virtually on January 7, 2025, under the leadership of Shri Viresh Goel, Joint Wireless Adviser, in online mode. Representatives from Industry, Academia, officers from the WPC wing of the DoT, and other Government Organizations participated in the meeting and took part in the discussions and deliberations. The meeting started with the welcome address and overview from the Chairman, highlighting the salient points of discussions and deliberations on various input documents received by WG-1. Many documents especially submitted by M/s Zero Sum regarding V2X ITS Solution, M/s Arya OmnTalk Radio Trunking Service regarding Channelling Block Arrangements, M/s Susan Future Technologies regarding PPDR and foot notes related to India in the Table of Frequency Allocation were discussed in details. All participants expressed thanks to WPC wing for involving industries, academia and other government organizations before finalizing the NFAP-2025. The collaborative approach of the WPC Wing, involving stakeholders from various sectors in the NFAP-2025 revision process, was widely appreciated by all the participants.

IAFI's Radio Group meeting for WP-5D

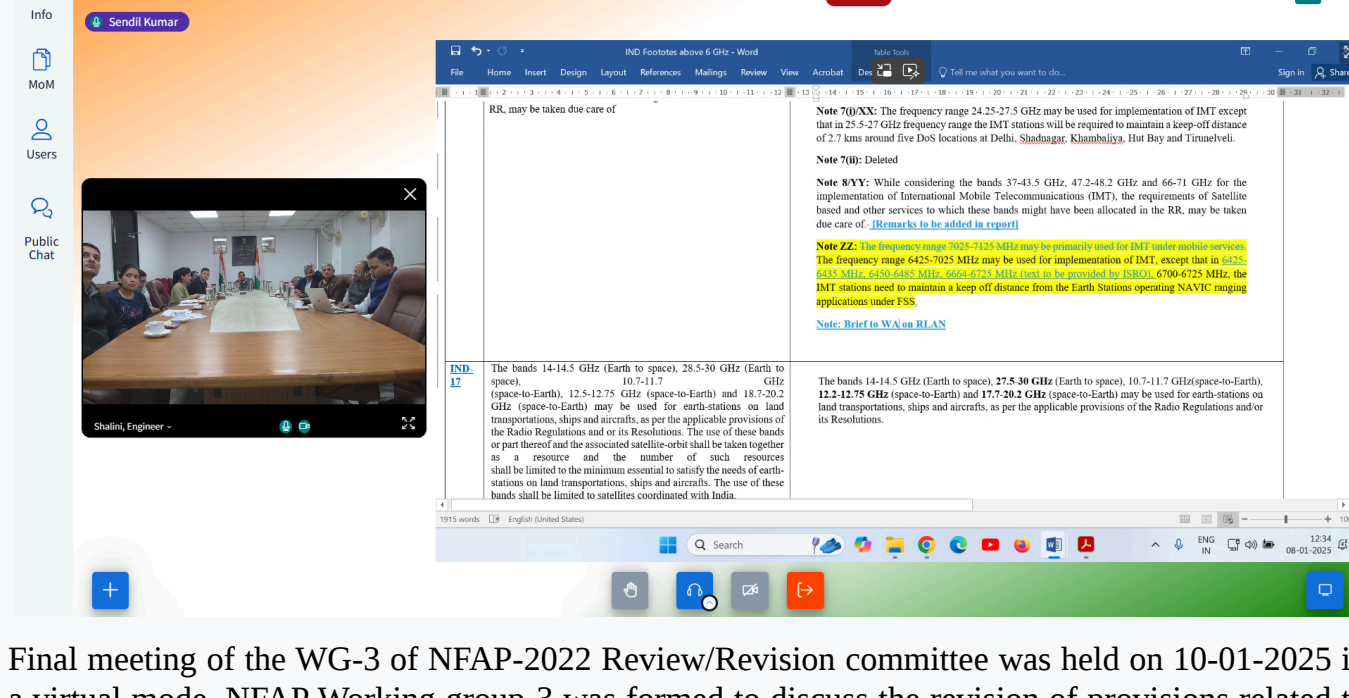


IAFI Radio Group meeting was organized in virtual mode on 08-01-2025 to review and finalize the contributions to be submitted in the upcoming WP-5D meeting, likely to be held from 03 to 14 Feb, 2025 at Geneva, Switzerland. After detailed discussion, following five contributions has been finalized.

- IAFI and WWRF joint contribution on "Characteristics Template and Evaluation Template as part of IMT-2030".
- Further updates on Working Document M.2527 regarding "Applications of the terrestrial component of IMT for specific societal, industrial and other usages".
- Proposed Liaison Statement regarding determination of draft new recommendation ITU-T Y.3211 (ex. Y.FMSC-ABC-REQ) " fixed, mobile and satellite convergence: requirements of supporting airborne broadband communication for IMT-2020 networks and beyond".
- Updates on working document regarding "Mitigation of interference for IMT network under tropospheric ducting effect".
- Updates on working document regarding "Coordination of stations in the fixed service (FS) with IMT stations in the frequency band 6 425-7 125 MHz".

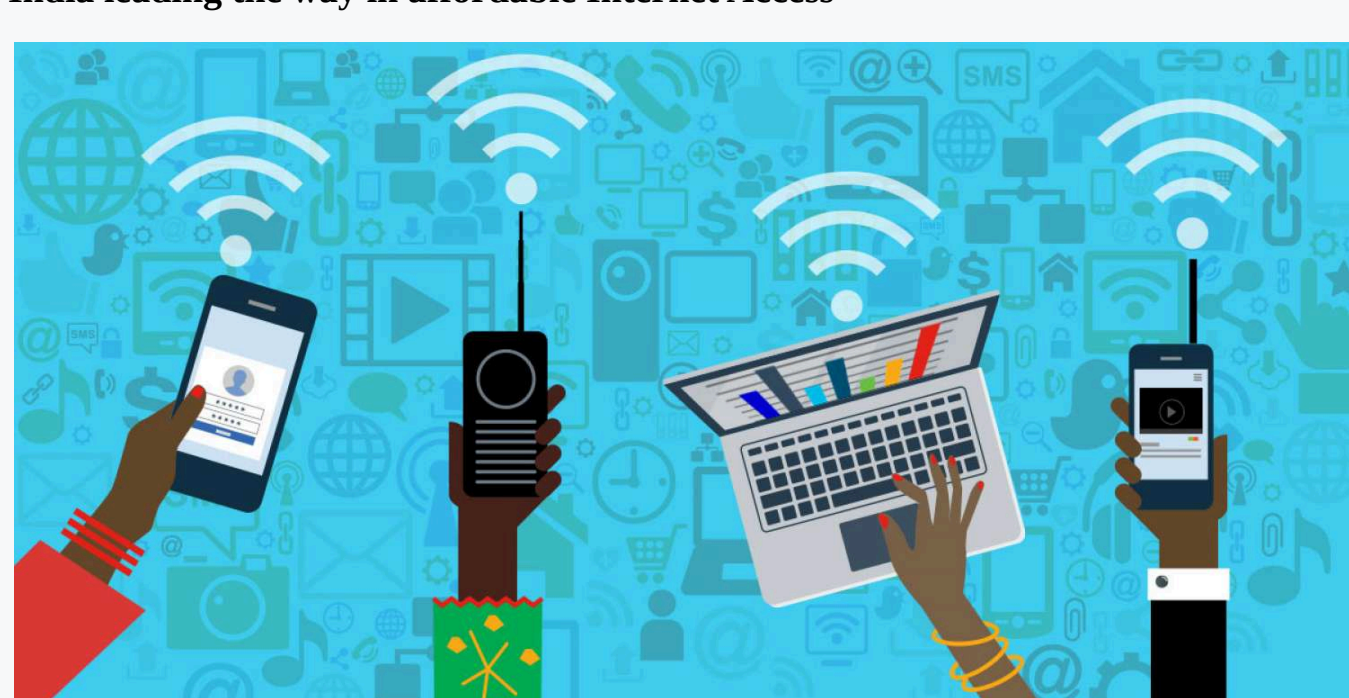
All above documents were circulated to members for further update, if any. Next and final meeting of the IAFI Radio Group will be held on 16-01-2025.

Final Meeting of the Working Group -3 (WG-3) of NFAP-2022 Review Committee



Final meeting of the WG-3 of NFAP-2022 Review/Revision committee was held on 10-01-2025 in a virtual mode. NFAP Working group-3 was formed to discuss the revision of provisions related to frequency bands beyond 6 GHz in line with WRC-23 decisions. One of the frequency band which was considered for discussion was 6425-7025 MHz band. A separate informal group was formed with Shri Vinay Srivastava of M/s RJIL as coordinator, as DoS informed during these deliberations that there are existing satellite services which has to be protected. Frequency bands used for various services like IRNSS CDMA, GAGAN, TT&C, MSS Feeder Link and frequency band used for Antarctica Uplink within 6425 -7025 MHz were discussed. There was detailed discussion on the Foot Note ZZ of IND-16 and after detailed deliberations by various stakeholders; foot note was finalized by the meeting, ensuring the continued operation and protection of existing satellite services while accommodating future spectrum needs.

India leading the way in affordable Internet Access



On January 7, 2025, the Department of Telecom released a report highlighting India's leadership in providing affordable internet access. The report emphasized three key parameters for ensuring accessible and high-quality data for all citizens.

- Lowest Data Tariff - in India's Data Tariff is 16 cent per GB (Rs 13.06 approx.), among lowest in the world.
- Faster Data Speed – Median Mobile Broadband speed has reached to 100 Mbps.
- High Data Usage – in India Data usage per subscriber per month has reached to 21.3 GB, among highest in the world.

A comparative chart is also attached showing comparison of rate of package with minimum mobile, voice and data of various countries are compared, as detailed below.

- India - \$ 1.89 per month (Rs 162.01/-) for unlimited voice and 18 GB data.
- Russia - \$ 6.55 per month (Rs 564.58/-).
- China - \$ 8.84 per month (Rs 761.97/-).
- UK - \$ 12.50 per month (Rs 1077.44/-).
- South Africa - \$ 15.80 per month (Rs 1361.89/-).
- Australia - \$ 20.10 per month (Rs 1732.53/-).
- USA - \$ 49.00 per month (Rs 4223.58/-).

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI Preparatory Meetings
ITU-T SG20 - Internet of Things, digital twins and smart sustainable cities and communities	15th - 24th Jan 2025	03rd Jan 2025	-
ITU-T ITU Workshop on "Future video coding – advanced signal processing, AI and standards"	17th Jan 2025	05th Jan 2025	-
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	16th Jan 2025
ITU-T SG3 Regional Group for Asia and Oceania (SG3RG-AO)	10th Feb 2025	30th Jan 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 6C (WP 6C) - Programme production and quality assessment	03rd - 07th Mar 2025	22nd Feb 2025	-
ITU-T SG13 - Future networks and emerging network technologies	03rd - 14th Mar 2025	22nd Feb 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 6A (WP 6A) - Terrestrial broadcasting delivery	05th - 12th Mar 2025	24th Feb 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 6B (WP 6B) - Broadcast service assembly and access	10th - 13th Mar 2025	28th Feb 2025	-
ITU-R Study Group 6 (SG 6)	14th Mar 2025	02nd Mar 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 7B (WP 7B) - Space radiocommunication applications	17th - 26th Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 7C (WP 7C) - Remote sensing systems	17th - 26th Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 7D (WP 7D) - Radio astronomy	17th - 26th Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025	-
ITU-R Radio Regulations Board (RRB)	17th - 21st Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025	-
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 Mar 2025	08th Mar 2025	-

Telecom Stories:



The Centre is committed to bring about an inclusive digital ecosystem and a two of roughly ₹1.40 lakh crores has been prepared and is rolled out as BharatNet one and plan. Now, the amended BharatNet programme will connect all gram panchayats with one Gigabit per second optical fiber connectivity. This will form the basis for a decentralised growth and enable every village to be an economic engine of its own by connecting it to the rest of the world through direct telecom communications. This will be possible, and Tamil Nadu stands a very good chance to make this project succeed, said Telecom Secretary Neeraj Mittal.



Telecom operators have urged the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to adopt the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (Trai) recommendations for the international traffic, a move that could potentially increase revenue from short messages (SMS) for telecom companies by over Rs 400 crore annually, according to a report by The Economic Times.

In a letter dated January 8 to telecom secretary Neeraj Mittal, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) requested the DoT to accept Trai's recommendations and update the existing unified licence agreement. The proposed amendments would align the definition of international and domestic traffic with the regulator's guidelines, the news report said.



The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently introduced new regulations that aim at reducing the monthly bills of the users. The revised guidelines mandate that major telecom companies, including Airtel, BSNL, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea (VI), will launch separate Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) for voice calling and SMS services.

This move is expected to benefit millions of users all over the country, especially those who have been focused on 2G services and do not require internet access. By separating the data and voice plans, TRAI has been aiming at eliminating the problem of users paying for bundled services they don't use.

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