

IAFI News

IAFI's 2nd Preparatory Workshop of WRC-27



The ITU-APT Foundation of India successfully hosted its 2nd Preparatory Workshop for WRC-27 on April 7, 2027, at Hotel Le Meridian, New Delhi. The workshop was attended by over 150 participants, including key government officials, spectrum managers, telecom industry executives, academics, and international satellite and spectrum specialists, to discuss crucial agenda items for the upcoming WRC-27.

Inaugurating the workshop, Shri Ritu Ranjan Mittar, Member (TRAI) and the Chief Guest of the event, commended IAFI's efforts and noted that the workshop's discussions would significantly influence India's contributions to WRC-27. Shri Anand Khare, Member (Service), Digital Communication Commission (DCC), DoT highlighted its crucial role as a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and policy shaping, particularly in India's growing leadership within global telecom forums, with a specific focus on 6G development and spectrum innovation.. The opening session featured insightful addresses from eminent speakers Dr. Rajeev Shorey (Director, IIIT Surat), Shri N K Bholra (Director, WMO, WPC), Shri Peng Zhao (Vice-President, Policy and Regulatory, GSOA, UK), and Shri Ravi Gandhi (Chief of Public Policy and Regulatory, Reliance Jio). Prof. N K Goel, Chairman TEMA and CMAI, delivered the Vote of Thanks.

In his welcome address, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, highlighted IAFI's long-standing dedication to spectrum policy in India and the Asia-Pacific Region. He further stressed the organization's objective to ensure India's strong and well-prepared voice at WRC-27, particularly concerning Agenda Items 1.7 and 1.13, which are crucial to India's national interests.

Further details about the workshop can be seen at - <https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/iafi-hosts-2nd-preparatory-workshop-for-wrc-27>

IAFI organized Preparatory workshop for APG-27



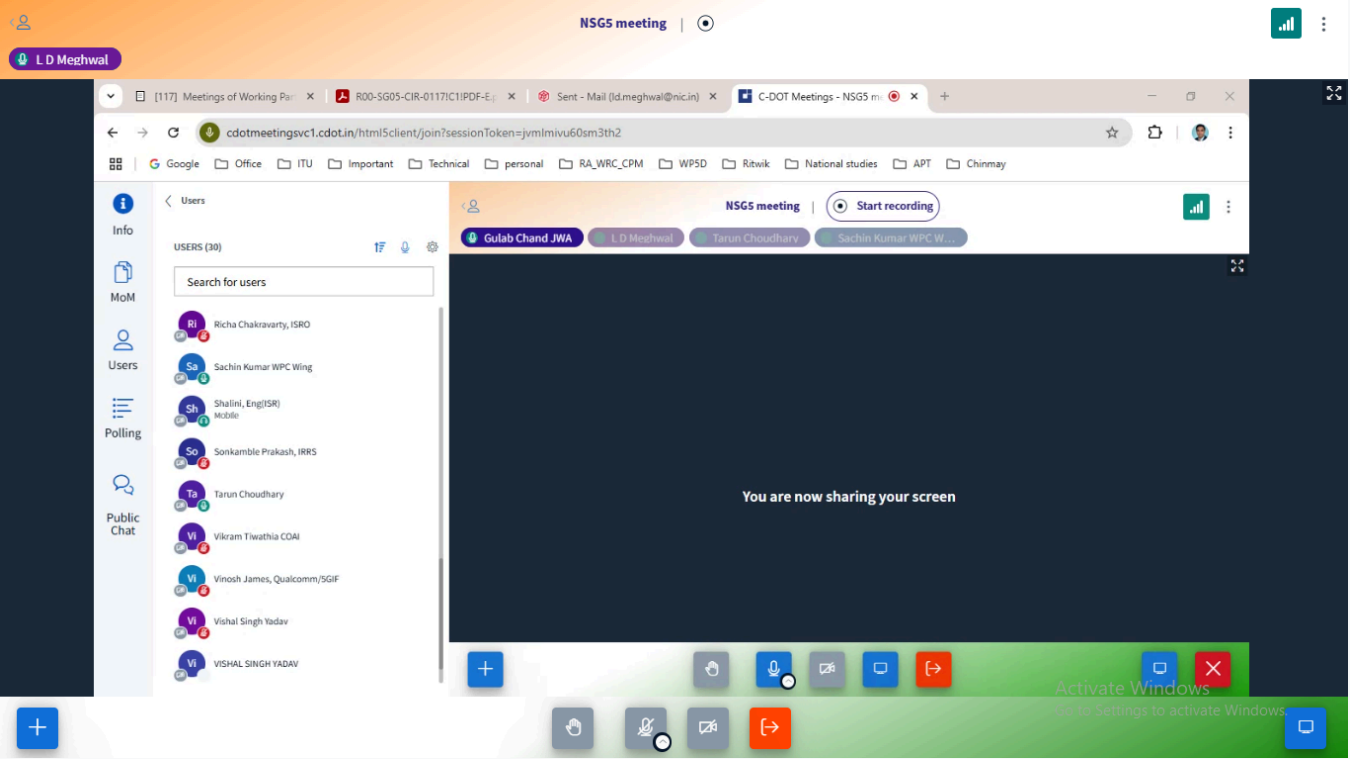
IAFI organized a preparatory workshop for the WRC-27, a drafting session for APG-27, on 08th April, 2025 at CSOI KG Marg New Delhi. Workshop was arranged in a hybrid mode and many participants from India and abroad joins the workshop. All contributions to be submitted to the next APG meeting (APG-27-3) was discussed and deliberated in detail. Draft contributions presented in the meeting were discussed and deliberated in detail and documents were updated in the meeting.

8th meeting of National Study Group 4 (NSG-4)



The 8th hybrid meeting of the NSG-4 was held on 08 April 2025, in the Spectrum Room, 6th Floor, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Ms. M Revathi, Joint Wireless Adviser, WPC Wing, to discuss and update the India's contributions to be submitted in the upcoming meeting of the WP-4A, likely to be held from 05-05-2025 to 16-05-2025 at Shanghai, China. All NWP chairs working under NSG-4 presented their inputs in the meeting.

10th Meeting of NSG5



The 10 th Meeting of the NSG-5 was held on 09 th April, 2025, in online mode under the chairmanship of Sh. Gulab Chand, JWA WPC Wing. Following two documents received by the NSG-5A were presented in the meeting.

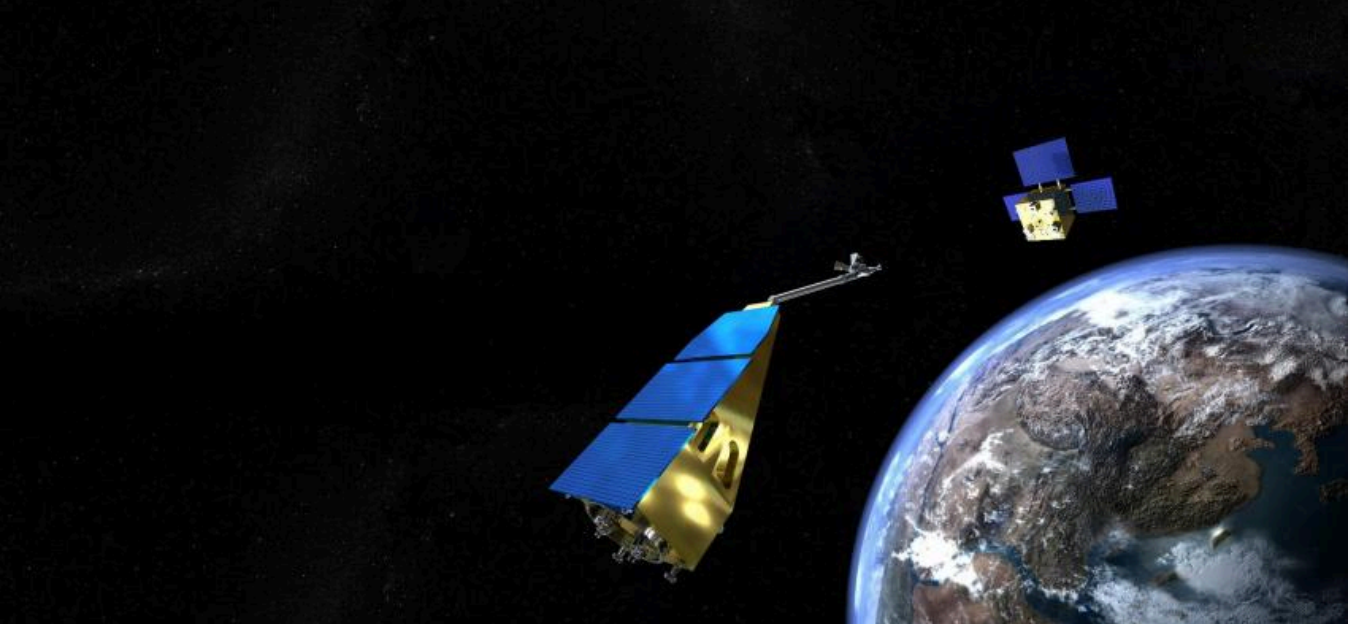
- Frequency bands, technical characteristics, and protection criteria, and compatibility and sharing studies for the modernization of high-frequency spectrum use in the aeronautical mobile (OR) service within the 2.8 to 18.05 MHz frequency range (WP-5B).
- Proposed text edits to the working documents for draft revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.2121 and draft revision of Report ITU-R M.2444.

NWP-4A1 meeting



9th virtual meeting of NWP-4A1 was held on 11.04.2025 under the chairmanship of Ms. J Sofi Jebasoundaram, Associate Director (Frequency Management), Satellite Communication Programme Office ISRO HQ, India. All input documents/ comments on various agenda items, AI 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 were discussed. During 9th NSG-4 meeting, multi country proposal from M/s Intelsat (on behalf of PNG administration) were duly discussed and some queries were raised. Based on the suggestions received, recent updated versions of these contributions were discussed in the meeting. Similarly, some issues were raised during 9th NSG-4 meeting regarding M/s Viasat India input contribution pertaining to the draft CPM text on AI 1.3. Revised version received from Viasat was also discussed in the meeting.

IAFI submitted a new contribution to WP-4C regarding AI-1.13



IAFI submitted a new contribution to the upcoming WP-4C meeting, likely to be held from 23-04-2025 to 02-05-2025 at Shanghai, China. WP-4C address efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for the mobile-satellite service (MSS) and the radio-determination-satellite service (RDSS). A total of 146 documents are scheduled for discussion at the meeting. The USA submitted highest number of contributions (21), while India submitted five. Notably, over 50 contributions relate to Agenda Item 1.13, concerning studies on potential new allocations for direct satellite-to-IMT user equipment connectivity to enhance terrestrial IMT coverage, as mandated by Resolution 253 (WRC-23).

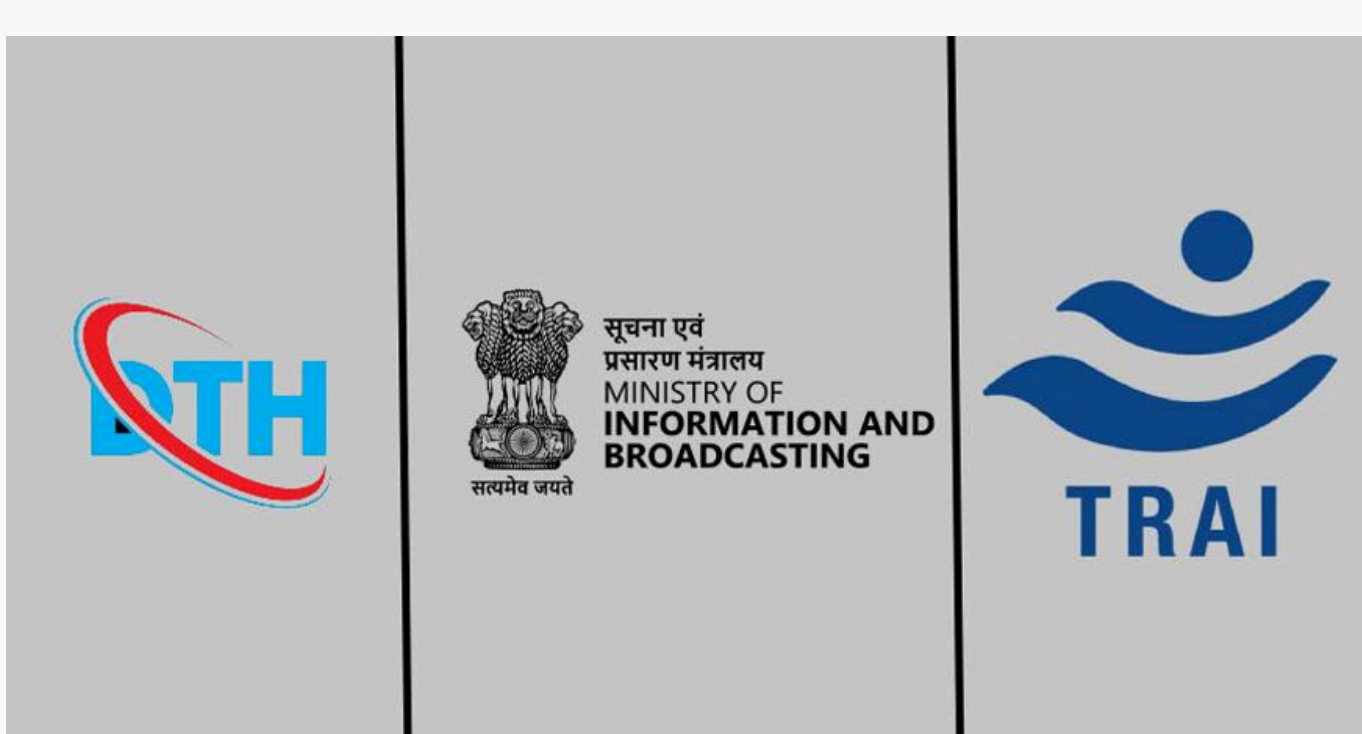
Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
APT: The 37th APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-37)	24th - 25th April 2025	11th April 2025
ITU-R Working Party 4C (WP 4C) - Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for MSS and RDSS	23rd April 02th May 2025	11th April 2025
APT: SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services	28th - 30th April 2025	18th April 2025
ITU-R Working Party 4B (WP 4B)	30th April - 05th May 2025	18th April 2025
ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP 4A) - Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for FSS and BSS	05th - 16th May 2025	24th April 2025
ITU-D TDAG-25	12th - 16th May 2025	30th April 2025
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2)	28th July - 01st Aug 2025	18th July 2025
APT: The 25th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-25)	01st - 03rd July 2025	22nd June 2025
APT: The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-4)	14th - 18th July 2025	04th July 2025
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2)	28th July - 01st Aug 2025	18th July 2025

Telecom Stories:



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw asked UIDAI to work on harmonising the Aadhaar Act with data protection rules. The minister posted a video speech on social media platform X in which he said there were several gaps in the legal structure when the Aadhaar Act 2016 was made and it is now time to update the Act keeping user convenience in mind. Vaishnaw said consultation on rules for the DPDP Act 2023 is about to get over and they will be notified soon. "In a way, we have an absolutely modern legal framework in the country. Now we need to see how the Aadhaar law can be harmonized vis-a-vis the DPDP Act. That is a task I would request the UIDAI authority to take as one of the major tasks going forward. Because when the Aadhaar Act was enacted, there were many gaps in the legal structure. Today, those gaps have been filled up," the minister said.



The Direct-to-Home sector in India is urging the government to act on the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's recommendation to phase out the 8% license fee on Adjusted Gross Revenue and eventually eliminate it by FY27. This proposal addresses financial stress in the DTH industry and creates a level playing field with other content distribution platforms, such as DD Free Dish and OTT services, which are not subject to such fees. TRAI had recommended reducing the license fee from 8% to 3% of AGR over three years, followed by a complete waiver after FY27. TRAI highlighted that DTH operators should be treated on par with other distribution platforms, such as multi-system operators (MSOs) and IPTV providers, which do not pay license fees. Eliminating the fee could improve cash flow for DTH operators, enable reinvestment in business, and stem subscriber losses. TRAI recommends excluding GST from AGR calculations and implementing mechanisms for deduction verification through a centralized portal.



Private telecom operators Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have published 5G, 4G and 2G network coverage maps in compliance with sector regulator Trai order, while public sector firms BSNL and MTNL are yet to publish it. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) in a revised regulation on service quality norms for landline, mobile and broadband in August 2024, had mandated telecom operators to publish service-wise geospatial coverage maps on their websites on where wireless voice or wireless broadband service is available for subscription by consumers. "In a significant move to enhance transparency and empower mobile subscribers, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have published mobile network coverage maps on their websites, as per the mandate given by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)," the regulator said in a statement.

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