

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

IAFI letter to Minister of Communication regarding de-licensing of 5G CNPN



At a recent meeting with the Honorable Minister of Communication, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI highlighted the various challenges faced by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and the broader telecommunications industries, as these challenges are impacting the domestic manufacturing of telecom equipment in India. IAFI in a letter to the Minister expresses gratitude for the positive changes introduced in the Telecom Act 2023. While acknowledging the progress, the letter highlights the need for immediate attention to captive network authorizations. IAFI emphasizes the importance of captive and private 5G networks for industrial growth, efficiency, security, and digital transformation. It argues that these networks should be exempted from authorization as they are like home Wi-Fi networks and lack commercial intent. To expedite the process, IAFI suggested for establishing a new "Class Authorization" category for captive networks. This consolidated approach; encompassing diverse captive licenses, aims to foster the conducive ecosystem for proliferation of captive and private 5G networks in India, thereby stimulating economic growth and innovation.

<https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/iafi-calls-for-delicensing-of-captive-5g-networks/>

IAFI in a press release opposes merging GMPCS and VSAT licenses



IAFI in a Press Release expressed strong opposition to the proposed merger of GMPCS and VSAT authorizations. IAFI argues that these services are fundamentally different and should retain separate licenses. IAFI argues that these services are fundamentally different and should retain separate licenses. IAFI in a written reply to the TRAI's consultation paper on the new Telecom Act, vehemently opposed the proposed merger of GMPCS and VSAT authorizations. Additionally, IAFI emphasizes the importance of a smooth transition to the new law, minimizing disruptions to existing operators and encouraging new investments and calls for equal treatment of licenses issued under the old and new laws. Finally, IAFI urges the government to expedite the process for issuing rules and spectrum assignments for Non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO) satellites to promote faster and more reliable internet access in remote areas.

<https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/iafi-urges-trai-to-separate-vsats-gmpcs-licenses-minimize-telecom-disruptions/>

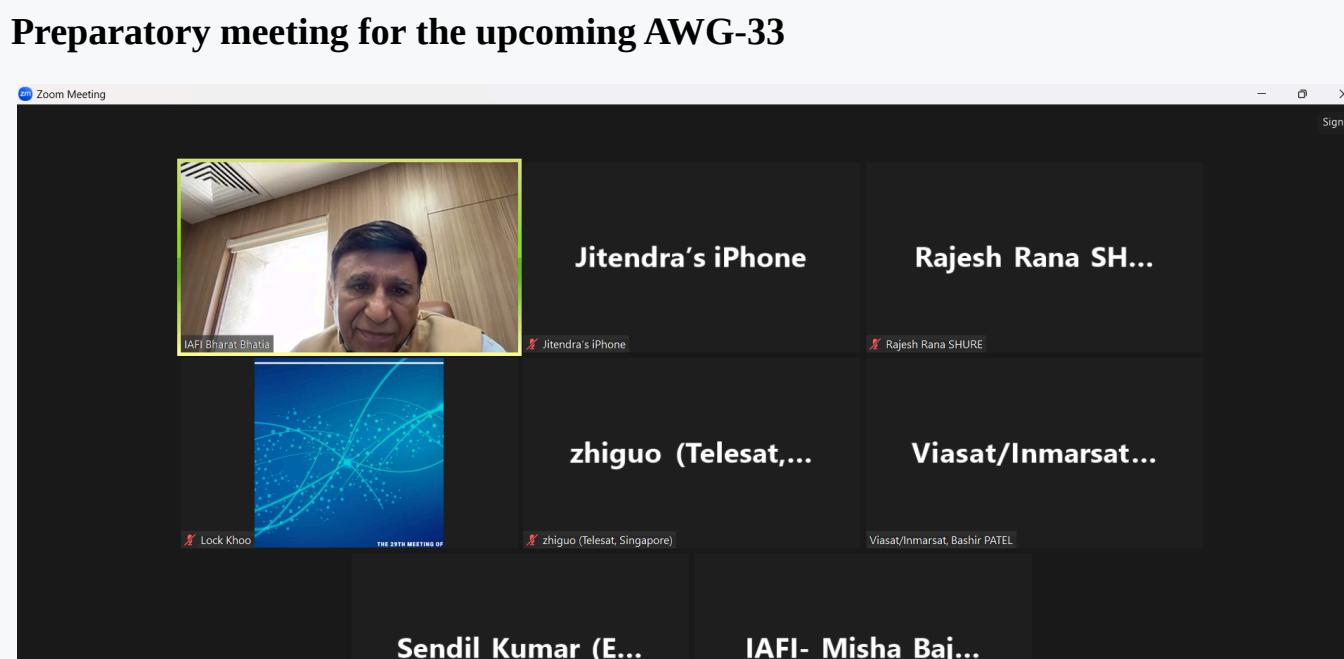
Review/Revision of the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) -2022



2nd Meeting of Working Group-1 (Freq. < 1 GHz) of NFAP-2022 Review/Revision Committee was held on 07.08.2024, under the Chairmanship of Shri Viresh Goel, Joint Wireless Advisor, in a online mode. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI joined the meeting and deliberated the following three issues in detail. Subsequently, IAFI submitted three comprehensive proposals to the NFAP committee for consideration and necessary action.

- IAFI proposes the revised text for a new India footnote: "IND 16", as the frequency bands 612-960, 1427-1518 MHz, 1710-2200 MHz, 2300-2450 MHz, 2500-2690 MHz, 3300-3670 MHz, 24.25-27.5 GHz, 37-43.5 GHz, 47.2-48.2 GHz, 66-71 GHz or parts thereof, have been identified for implementation of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT). IAFI suggested text addition in the footnote for the frequency ranges 612-698 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz, 3400-3425 MHz, 3600-3670 MHz, 24.25-27.5 GHz and 37-43.5 GHz, 47.2-48.2 GHz and 66-71 GHz.
- IAFI through this proposal requested that considering the immense need LPWAN technology, the utilization of the ISM band 865 to 867 MHz, for various applications, is leading to high interference. IAFI suggested for extended requirement of 1 MHz (up to 868 MHz), to serve the end users efficiently. In addition, IAFI suggested that there is also a need for additional requirement of 2-3 MHz spectrum within frequency range of 918-922 MHz band for LPWAN & low power short range communications considering evolving Ecosystem for IoT & M2M Services.
- IAFI through this proposal suggested for addition of a footnote to the 470-694 MHz band in the NFAP. This footnote would allow the use of land mobile service intended for applications ancillary to broadcasting and Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE) on a secondary basis. IAFI proposes the following text for a new India footnote: "IND XX The frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-612 MHz is also allocated on a secondary basis to the land mobile service, intended for applications ancillary to broadcasting and programme-making."

Preparatory meeting for the upcoming AWG-33

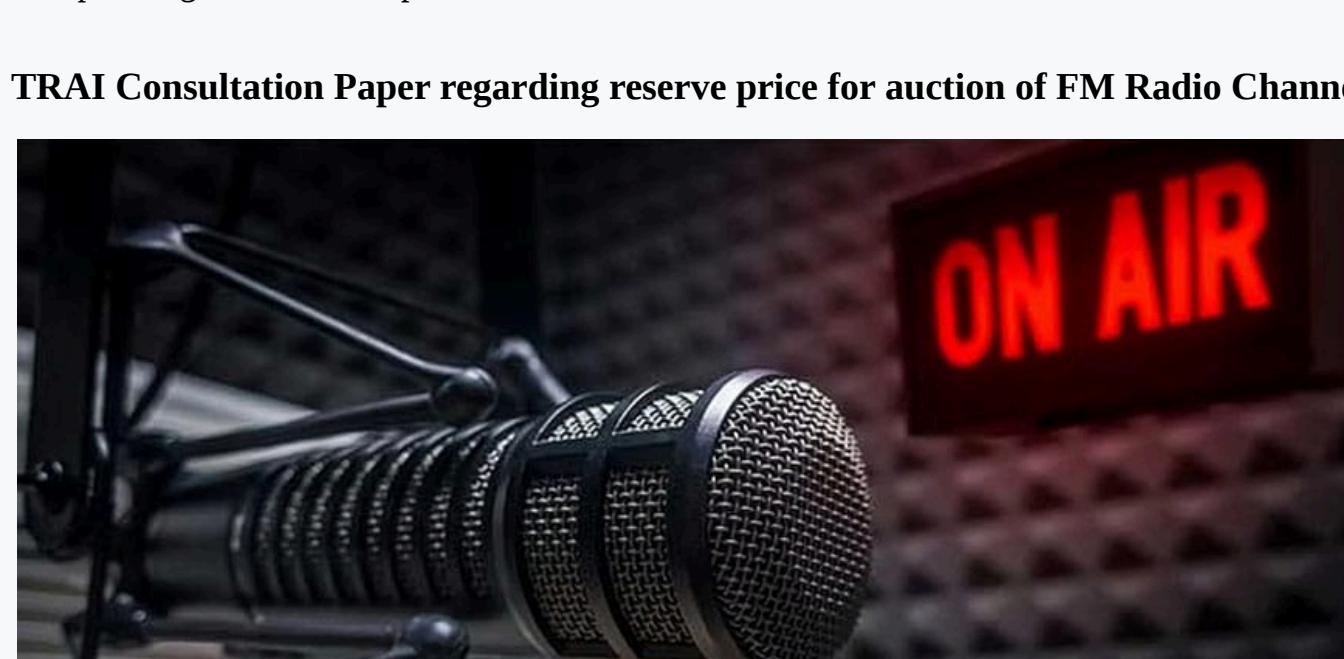


A preparatory meeting of the Radio Group of IAFI was held on 14-08-2024, to review the contributions to be submitted in the upcoming meeting of the AWG-33, likely to be held from September 09 to 13, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand. Meeting was arranged in a hybrid mode and many IAFI members and industry partners joined the meeting from India and abroad online. IAFI is working on the following six documents, for submission to AWG-33.

- Working Document towards draft new APT report on methodology and pricing of IMT spectrum in Asia Pacific countries.
- Proposed further updates to the Working Document towards draft revision of APT report on information of mobile operators' frequencies, technologies and license durations in Asia Pacific countries.
- APT report on the status of the implementation of APT 700 band plan in Asia Pacific countries. Proposed further updates to the working document towards a new city category, i.e. Category 'E'. MIB further proposed that all the technical parameters applicable for category 'D' cities, except for ERP may apply to category 'E'. The proposed ERP for Category 'E' is 750W to 1 KW. MIB vide its letter dated 09.04.2024 further clarified that TRAI has already recommended the reserve price for the city of Anantnag in its 2020 recommendations and that City of Rudrapur (Uttarakhand) belongs to Category 'D' as its population exceeds 1 lakh according to census 2011. Accordingly, for remaining 18 new cities, the new Category 'E' has been proposed. Therefore, TRAI prepared the Consultation Paper (CP) to solicit comments and views of all stakeholders on the determination of reserve prices for auction of FM Radio channels, under FM Phase-III Policy. Last date of submission of comments is 29-08-2024.
- 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.
- Proposed further updates to the working document towards a draft new APT report on deployment approaches and solutions for IMT-2020/5G use case

It was decided that next Radio Group meeting will be held at 14.30 PM on 28th August and it will be the final meeting for AWG-33 document drafting. The deadline for submitting contributions to the upcoming AWG-33 is September 2, 2024.

TRAI Consultation Paper regarding reserve price for auction of FM Radio Channel



TRAI invited written comments from the stakeholders on a consultation paper regarding the determination of the reserve price for auction of FM Radio Channel under FM Phase-III policy. MIB vide letter dated 19.03.2024 provided a list of 20 cities in Hilly states/UTs of Himachal Pradesh, 4 Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir, to TRAI and requested to recommend reserve prices for these cities. In its letter MIB also conveyed introducing a new city category, i.e. Category 'E'. MIB further proposed that all the technical parameters applicable for category 'D' cities, except for ERP may apply to category 'E'. The proposed ERP for Category 'E' is 750W to 1 KW. MIB vide its letter dated 09.04.2024 further clarified that TRAI has already recommended the reserve price for the city of Anantnag in its 2020 recommendations and that City of Rudrapur (Uttarakhand) belongs to Category 'D' as its population exceeds 1 lakh according to census 2011. Accordingly, for remaining 18 new cities, the new Category 'E' has been proposed. Therefore, TRAI prepared the Consultation Paper (CP) to solicit comments and views of all stakeholders on the determination of reserve prices for auction of FM Radio channels, under FM Phase-III Policy. Last date of submission of comments is 29-08-2024.

IAFI to attend APT-WTSA-24-5



IAFI President Bharat Bhatia will physically participate in the 5th and Final APT Preparatory Group Meeting for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-5), scheduled to take place from August 19 to 23, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand. Mr. Kishore Narang IAFI members is also attending the meeting in person along with many other members participating online. IAFI had earlier submitted more than 15 input documents on various resolutions that will be discussed in the meeting, 51 documents containing proposals of various member administrations, were discussed. It may be noted that APT WTSA-24-5 is the last APT meeting to finalize the proposals to be sent to WTSA-24, likely to be held from 15th Oct to 24th Oct, 2024 at New Delhi.

DoT proposal to develop new National Digital Communication Policy



In light of the swift progress in telecom technologies and the increasing reliance on ICT, the Department of Telecommunications has initiated process for the development of a Digital Communications Policy for the next five years, replacing the existing policy NDCP-2018. Policy will serve as a blueprint for India's digital communications sector, guiding its growth and evolution. Proposed policy will comprehensively incorporate a wide range of perspectives and strategies to address the sector's present and future needs. Director General, National Communication Academy (erstwhile NTIPRIT), DoT, Ghaziabad vide letter dated 16-08-2024, addressed to Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI intimated that the National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT) has been mandated to lead to the consultation process, to gather valuable inputs that will help shape this crucial policy frame-work. The draft policy should outline new initiatives to create an ICT-powered India over the next five years. It must address key areas such as telecom infrastructure development, universal connectivity, skill development, cyber-security, fostering innovation, improving the business environment, promoting entrepreneurship, achieving self-reliance in telecom equipment, boosting telecom exports, and strengthening the MSME ecosystem within the telecom supply chain.

TRAI Consultation Papers

Consultation Papers	Submission Dates	Status	Submission
The Framework for Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023	08th Aug 2024	Submitted	File1
Reserve Prices for auction of FM Radio channels	29th Aug 2024	Under Development	-

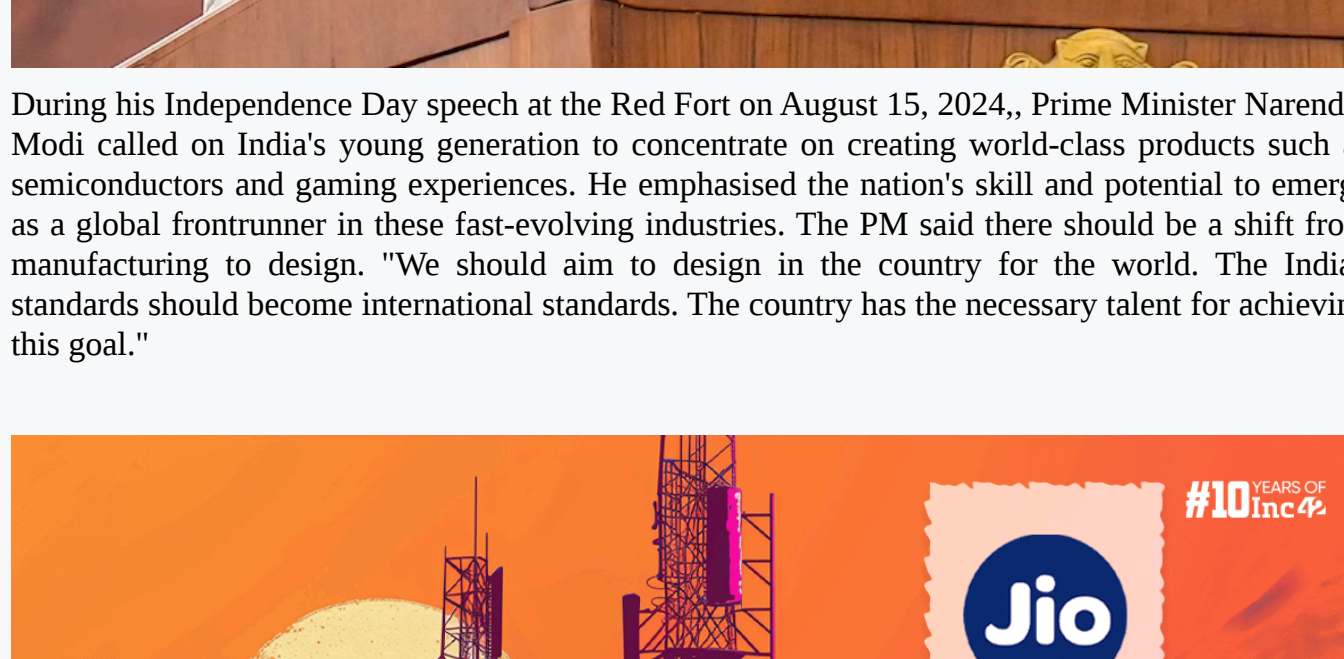
Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI Preparatory Meetings
APT: The 5th Meeting of APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-5)	19th Aug - 23rd Aug 2024	09th Aug 2024	-
APT: The 33rd Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-33)	09th Sep - 13th Sep 2024	31st Aug 2024	28th 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	-
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 - 21st Oct 2024	09th Oct 2024	-
ITU-R: Study Group 4 (SG 4)	01st Nov 2024	19th Oct 2024	-

Telecom Stories:

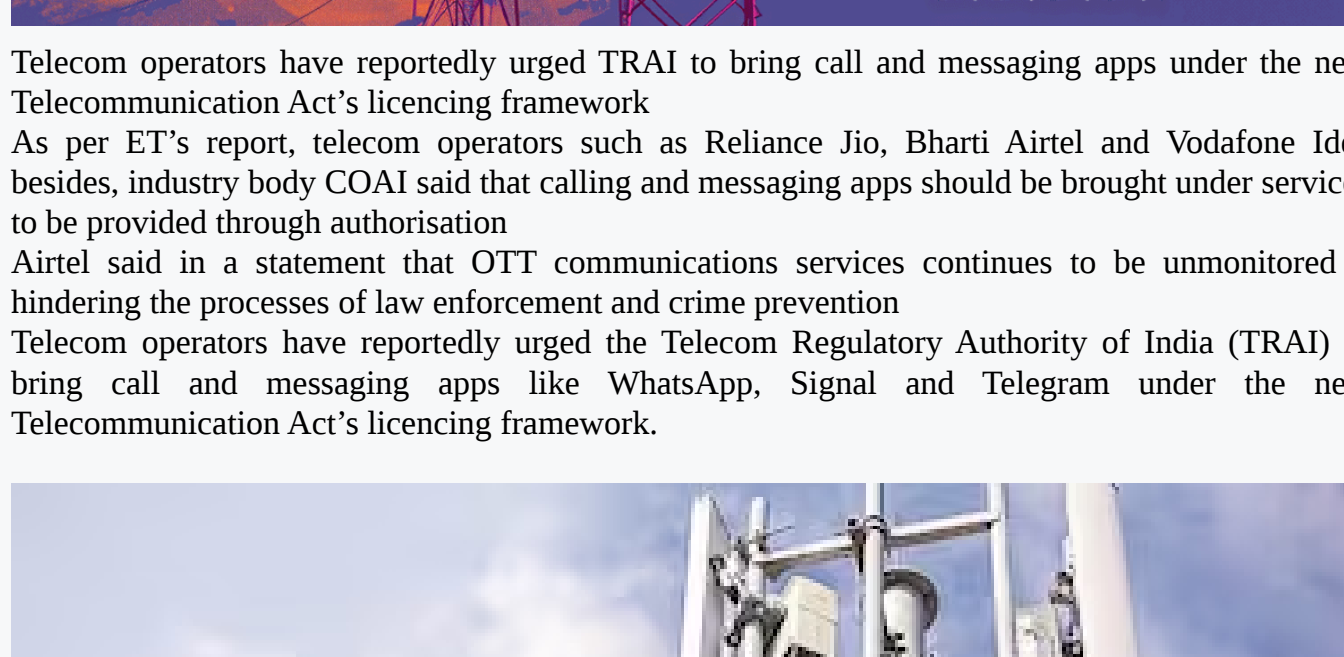


During his Independence Day speech at the Red Fort on August 15, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on India's young generation to concentrate on creating world-class products such as semiconductors and gaming experiences. He emphasised the nation's skill and potential to emerge as a global frontrunner in these fast-evolving industries. The PM said there should be a shift from manufacturing to design. "We should aim to design in the country for the world. The Indian standards should become international standards. The country has the necessary talent for achieving this goal."



Telecom operators have reportedly urged TRAI to bring call and messaging apps under the new Telecommunication Act's licensing framework. As per ET's report, telecom operators such as Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone India besides the industry body COAI said that calling and messaging apps should be brought under services to be provided through authorisation. Airtel said in a statement that OIT communications services continues to be unmonitored - hindering the processes of law enforcement and crime prevention.

Telecom operators have reportedly urged the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to bring call and messaging apps like WhatsApp, Signal and Telegram under the new Telecommunication Act's licensing framework.



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is currently scrutinising potential tax implications before granting final approval to a significant 10-year service agreement between Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), according to a report by the Financial Express. This agreement, approved by MTNL's board on Wednesday, is a strategic move that allows BSNL to manage MTNL's operations without merging the two state-run telecom giants. The DoT's focus on possible tax implications highlights the government's cautious approach to avoiding unforeseen financial liabilities. Officials are particularly concerned about ensuring that the deal doesn't result in additional costs for the government, which is already supporting MTNL's sovereign bond payments but has refrained from covering other liabilities, such as the company's substantial bond debt.

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