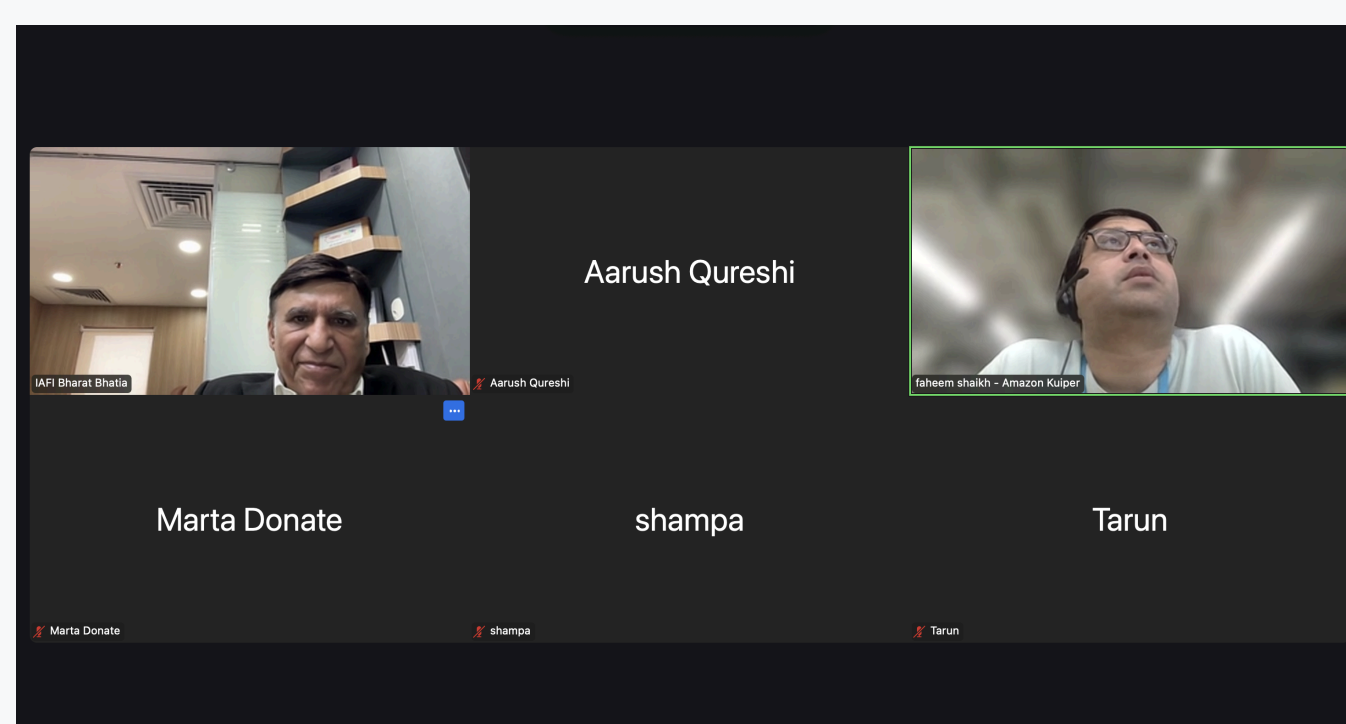# THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY
IAFI News

TRAI organized Open House Discussion (OHD) on Network Authorisations

TRAI released a Consultation Paper on 22-10-2024, for seeking comments from stakeholders regarding the Terms and Conditions of Network Authorisations to be granted under the new Telecommunications Act, 2023. Total 32 stakeholder offered comments including IAFI and 11 offered counter-comments. On 17-12-2024, TRAI organized an Open House Discussion (OHD) under the chairmanship of Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI virtually. In addition, Shri Anil Kumar Chaudhary, Secretary, TRAI; Shri S B Singh, Pr Advisor (NSL); Shri A K Trivedi, Advisor (NSL-II); Shri D. Manoj, Pr Advisor (F&EA) and Shri Vijay Kumar, Advisor (F&EA-I) attended the OHD on behalf TRAI.

The Open House Discussion (OHD) saw participation from key industry figures, including Shri U.K. Shrivastava (Reliance Jio), Shri Tarun Chitkara (Airtel), Shri Fahim Shekh (Amazon), Shri Debashish Chakravorty (BIF), and Shri Praveen Sharma and Shri Manoj Kumar (TATA Communications). Representatives from industry bodies like COAI, ISPAI, VIL, SIA, and IAFI also contributed to the discussion. Following the Secretary's proposal, the TRAI Chairman extended the deadline for stakeholder to submit further inputs by December 23rd, 2024.
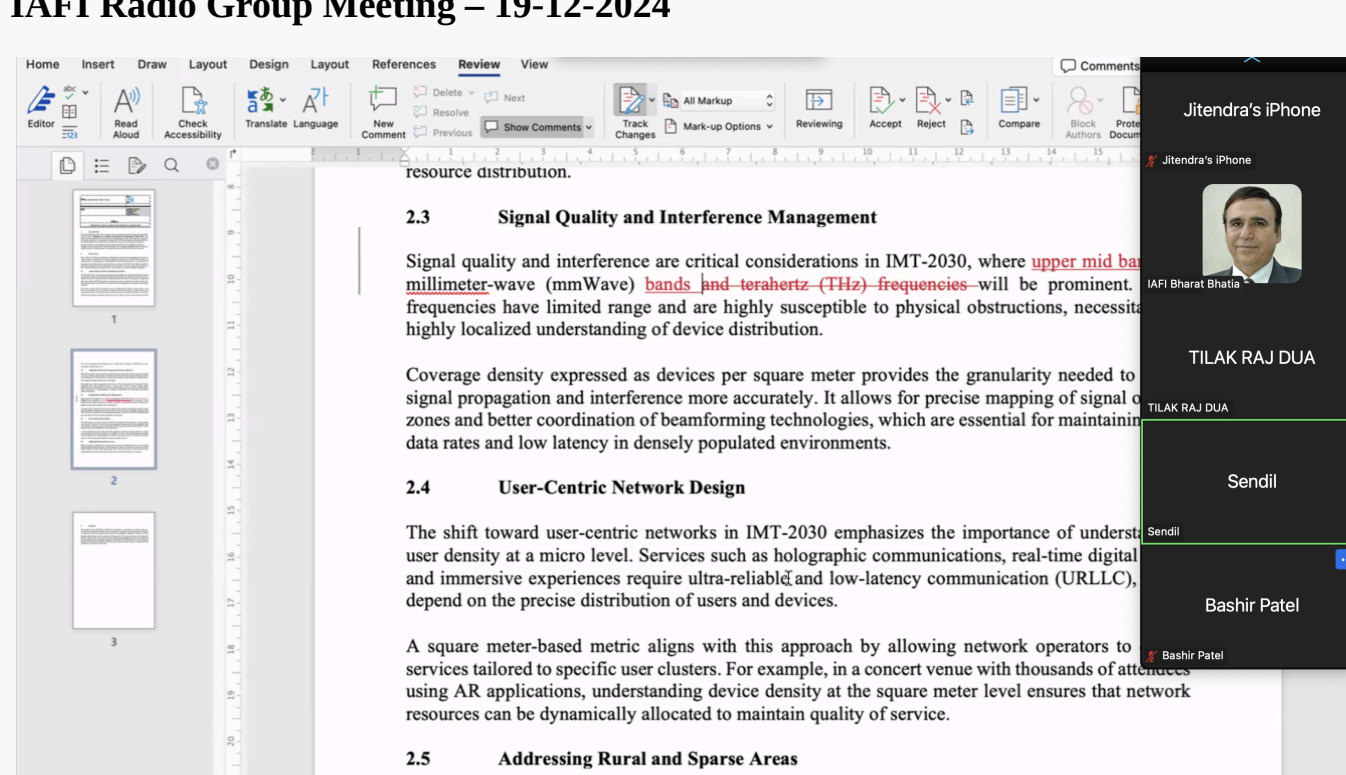
Meeting organized by IAFI regarding Satellite Earth Station Gateway (SESG)

In response to TRAI consultation paper regarding Network Authorization, IAFI submitted its view that there should be a separate light-touch registration for SESG/Satellite Communication Network operators, eliminating the need for traditional license/ authorisation. It was also suggested that the SESG/Satellite Communication Network operator should be allowed to acquire/ use spectrum required for the operation of SESGs/SNPs (for establishing the feeder link with the satellite) and to install baseband equipment at the SESGs/SNPs. IAFI approach aims to reduce regulatory barriers and encourage the growth of satellite-based communication services.
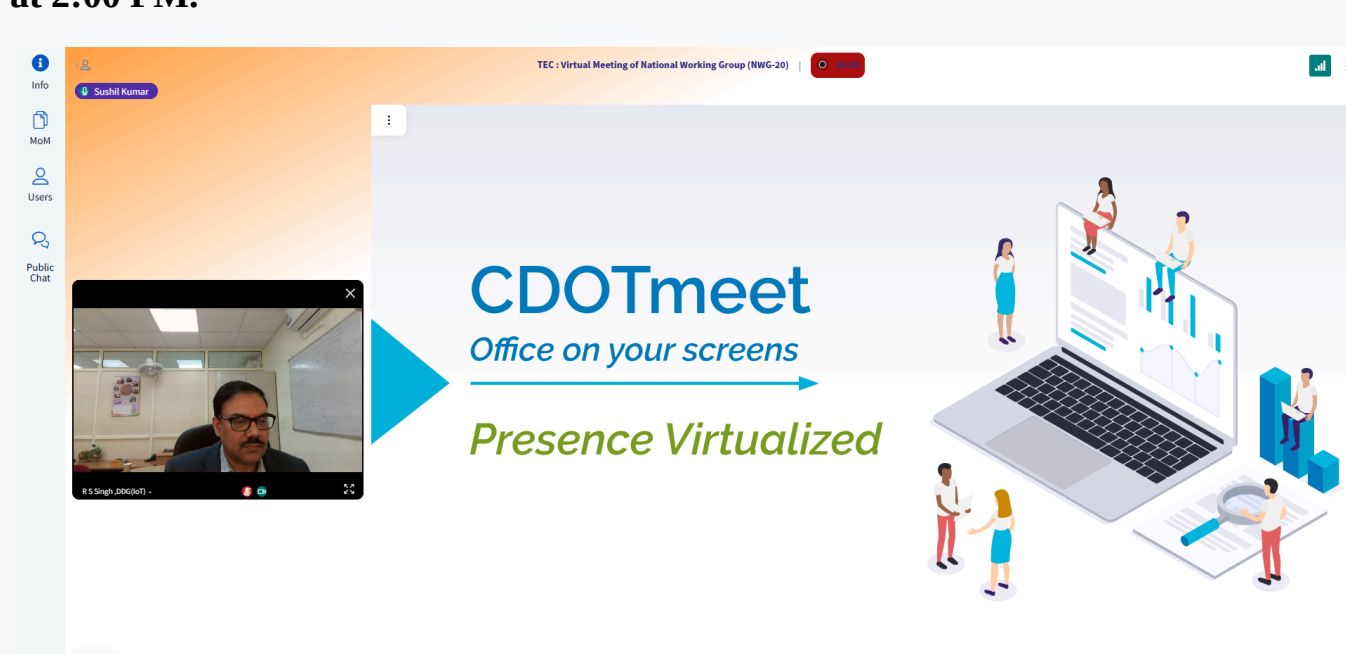
To develop unified views on the issue, a virtual meeting was organized by IAFI on 18-12-2024, to discuss the critical issues involved and to develop a common agenda among stakeholders.

IAFI Radio Group Meeting – 19-12-2024

The IAFI Radio Group meeting was convened on 19th Dec, 2024 at 1200 Hrs in hybrid format, to review the preparations for WP-5D meeting, and to review and finalize the documents, already prepared and identifying new topics, on which IAFI can submit contributions in the upcoming meetings of the Working Party 5D (WP-5D) of ITU-R, tentatively scheduled for 04-13 February, 2025. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI chaired the meeting. Total five contributions were discussed in the meeting and remaining issues were identified for submission.
It may be noted that the deadline for submission of the contribution to WP-5D is 23-01-2025.
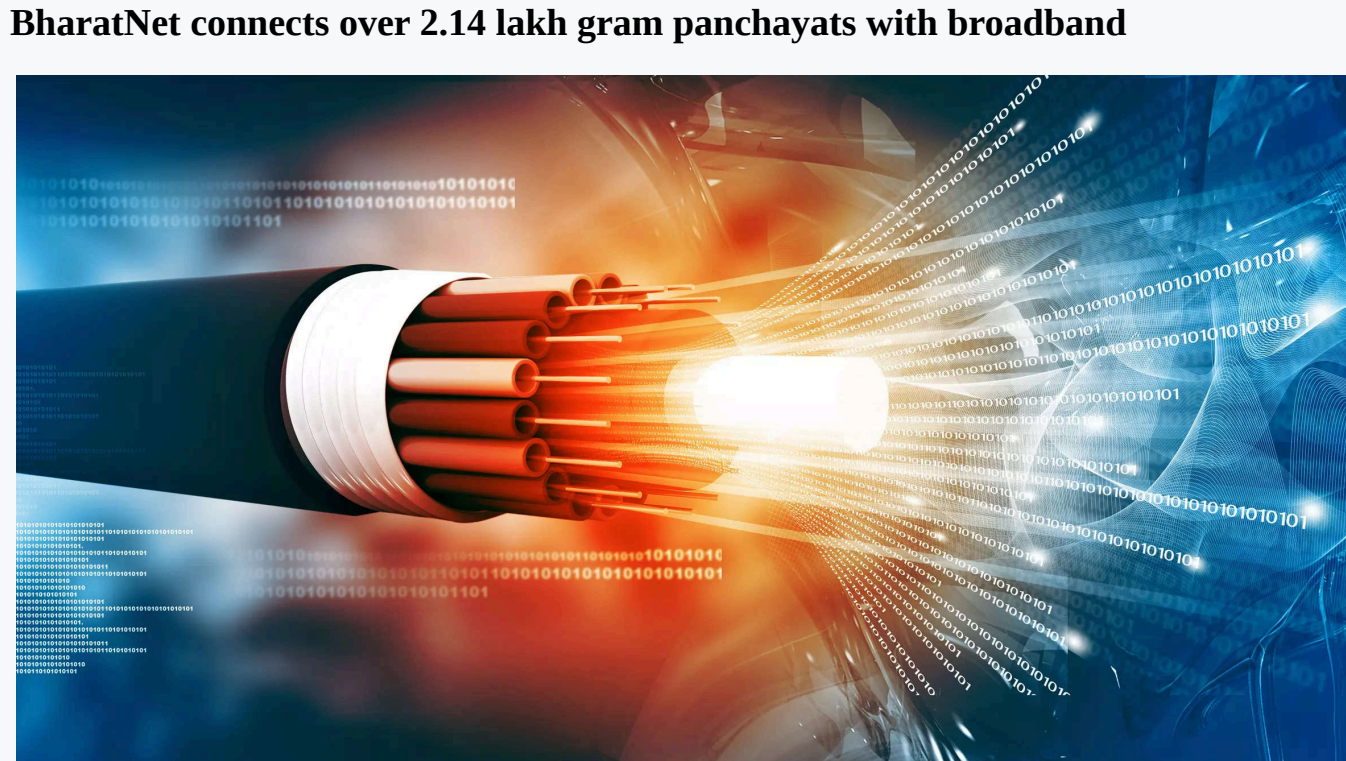
Third virtual meeting of NWG-20 is scheduled on 19th December 2024 (Thursday) at 2:00 PM.

Third virtual meeting of NWG-20 corresponding to ITU-T SG-20 (Internet of things (IoT), Digital Twins and smart cities & communities) was held on 19th December 2024 (Thursday) at 2:00 PM in hybrid mode. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss and finalize contributions for the forthcoming meeting of ITU-T SG-20, likely to be held from 15-24 January 2025, Geneva.

Shri R S Singh, DDG (IoT) was the chair of the meeting and Ms Namrata Singh, Dir (IoT) was the convener of the meeting. Total 15 documents were presented in the meeting. TEC presented six contributions, suggesting modifications/updations on the existing ITU-T SG-20 working documents (TD-1508, 124, 125, 130, 444 and 469) and nine new contributions were presented by the various stakeholders.

BharatNet connects over 2.14 lakh gram panchayats with broadband
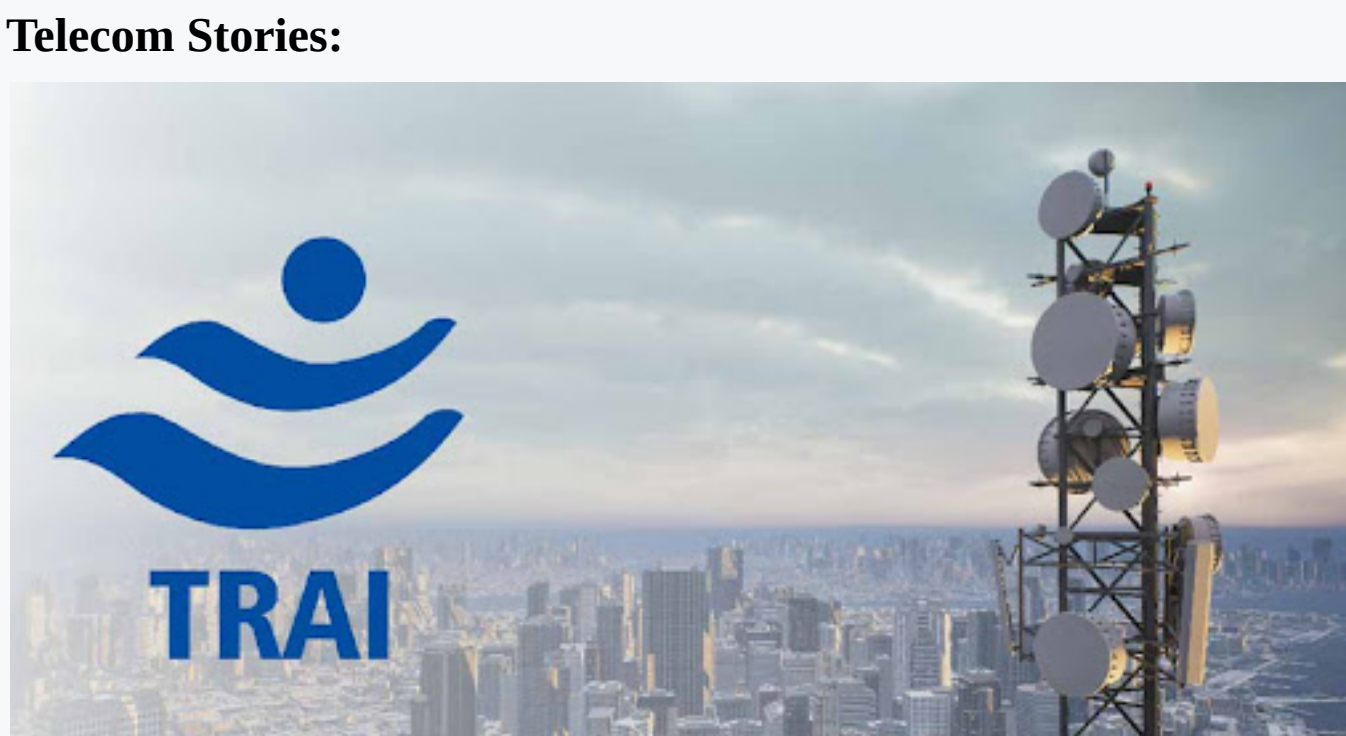

BharatNet, the world's largest rural broadband connectivity program, has achieved a significant milestone by connecting over 214,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) across India. Launched in October 2011, this ambitious initiative leverages optical fibre, radio, and satellite technologies to bridge the digital divide and bring affordable high-speed internet access to rural communities. By empowering these communities with connectivity, BharatNet fosters inclusive growth and unlocks opportunities in education, healthcare, and economic development.

As of today, BharatNet has laid an impressive 692,299 km of optical fiber cable, connecting 214,283 GPs with affordable broadband services. This extensive network facilitates an estimated monthly data usage of 137,967 TB, highlighting the growing demand for internet access in rural areas. To further enhance connectivity, the program has also commissioned 1,160,367 Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) connections and installed 104,574 Wi-Fi hotspots, ensuring last-mile connectivity for individuals and communities.

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 2024	03rd Jan 2024	-
ITU:T ITU Workshop on "Future video coding – advanced signal processing, AI and standards"	17th Jan 2024	05th Jan 2024	-
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 - 13nd Feb 2025	24th Jan 2025	19th Dec 2024
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 Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended allocating the remaining 5 megahertz spectrum in the premium 700 MHz band to Indian Railways for passenger safety applications. For commercial use, the cost per megahertz (MHz) in the 700 MHz band is Rs 3,927 crore. The Department of Telecommunications through its letter dated July 26, 2023, had requested TRAI that Indian Railways has sought an additional 5 MHz of paired spectrum in the 700 MHz band, free of cost, for enhancing its safety and security systems.
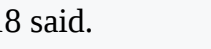

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) plans to send bank guarantee (BG) waiver letters to all telecom operators in the next few days, giving a fillip to struggling Vodafone Idea (Vi), which was earlier bound to provide BGs worth more than Rs 24,700 crore. Once communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia gives the go-ahead, the letters will be sent to the telcos immediately, officials said. "The letters containing provisions of the BG waiver will be sent to telcos soon. The latest reform will enable continued investments in the telecom sector," said one of the officials, who did not wish to be identified.

The telecom department has ordered operators to play cyber crime awareness caller tune 8-10 times per day to telephone subscribers for three months. According to the order copy sent to the telecom operators, the caller tunes will be provided by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) – a cyber crime wing under the Home Ministry.

"In order to make the public aware about cybercrime through the caller tune campaign, it has been decided to play caller tune audios through pre-call announcement/ring back tone arrangement, which will be provided to TSPs by nodal officers of I4C. Caller tunes to a subscriber may be played about 8-10 times a day," the order dated December 18 said.

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