THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY
IAFI News

ISMC-24 to be held in New Delhi on 7-8 November 2024

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) will once again organize our annual flagship event the "**India Spectrum Management Conference 2024" (ISMC-24), on 7th and 8th November 2024 in New Delhi, India.** Mr. Mario Maniewicz, Director of ITU-R has already accepted to be the chief guest of ISMC-24. Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary DST, India, Mr. Manish Sinha, Member Finance DOT and Mr. Charles Cooper, Associate Administrator, office of the spectrum Management, National Telecom and information Administration, USA has accepted to be our guest of honour.

Preparatory Meeting for fourth WTSA-24 meeting at Adelaide, Australia

A preparatory meeting for WTSA-24 was held on 20.06.2024 at 10:00 AM in the Manak Hall, Ground Floor, TEC, to finalize the WTSA resolutions to be discussed in the upcoming APT WTSA 24-4 meeting, likely to be held at Adelaide, Australia from 25th to 28 June, 2024. Meeting was coordinated by Shri Awanish Agarwal, DDG (Convergence & Broadcasting), TEC and chaired by the Sr DGG and Head TEC, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI is functioning as Leader/Co-leader for India in the following contributions.

1. INP-10 (Resolution-7 – Korea suggested modifications of Resolution 7 to reflect the establishment of ISO/IEC JTC3) –assigned to WG-1.
2. INP-16 (Resolution -58 –Korea proposes modification in the candidate draft PACP regarding Computer Emergency Response Team) – assigned to WG-3.
3. INP-23 (Resolution -20 – modification suggested during the last WTSA-24-3 meeting at Cambodia in the draft PACP) – assigned to WG-3.
4. INP-31 (Resolution – 60 – regarding NNAL China suggested modification in the candidate draft PACP as per the discussion held during WTSA-24-3) –assigned to WG-3.
5. INP-42 (Resolution – 68 – evolving role of industry in the ITU-T sector, re-submitted after making necessary changes) - assigned to WG-1.
6. INP- 43 (Resolution -75 – regarding WSIS, contribution was discussed in the last WTSA-24-3 meeting and modifications suggested are incorporated, to be re-submitted again) - assigned to WG-1

These draft PACPs will be discussed along with all other PACPs at the 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-4) from 25 to 28 June 2024 in Adelaide, Australia. The Meeting will be organized by the APT and hosted by the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. The objective of APT WTSA24-4 is to assist the APT members to prepare for the ITU World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly 2024 (WTSA-24) which will take place in New Delhi, India from 15 to 24 October 2024.

IAFI Dinner Reception on 19th June 2024

IAFI hosted a dinner reception on 19 June to bid farewell to Mr. R. R. Mittar who has recently retired as Director General, DOT and Mr. V Raghunandan who has recently retired as secretary TRAI. IAFI also felicitated of Prof. Rajeev Shorey Prof of IIT Delhi and IIT Gandhi Nagar on his promotion as Director of IIIT Surat.
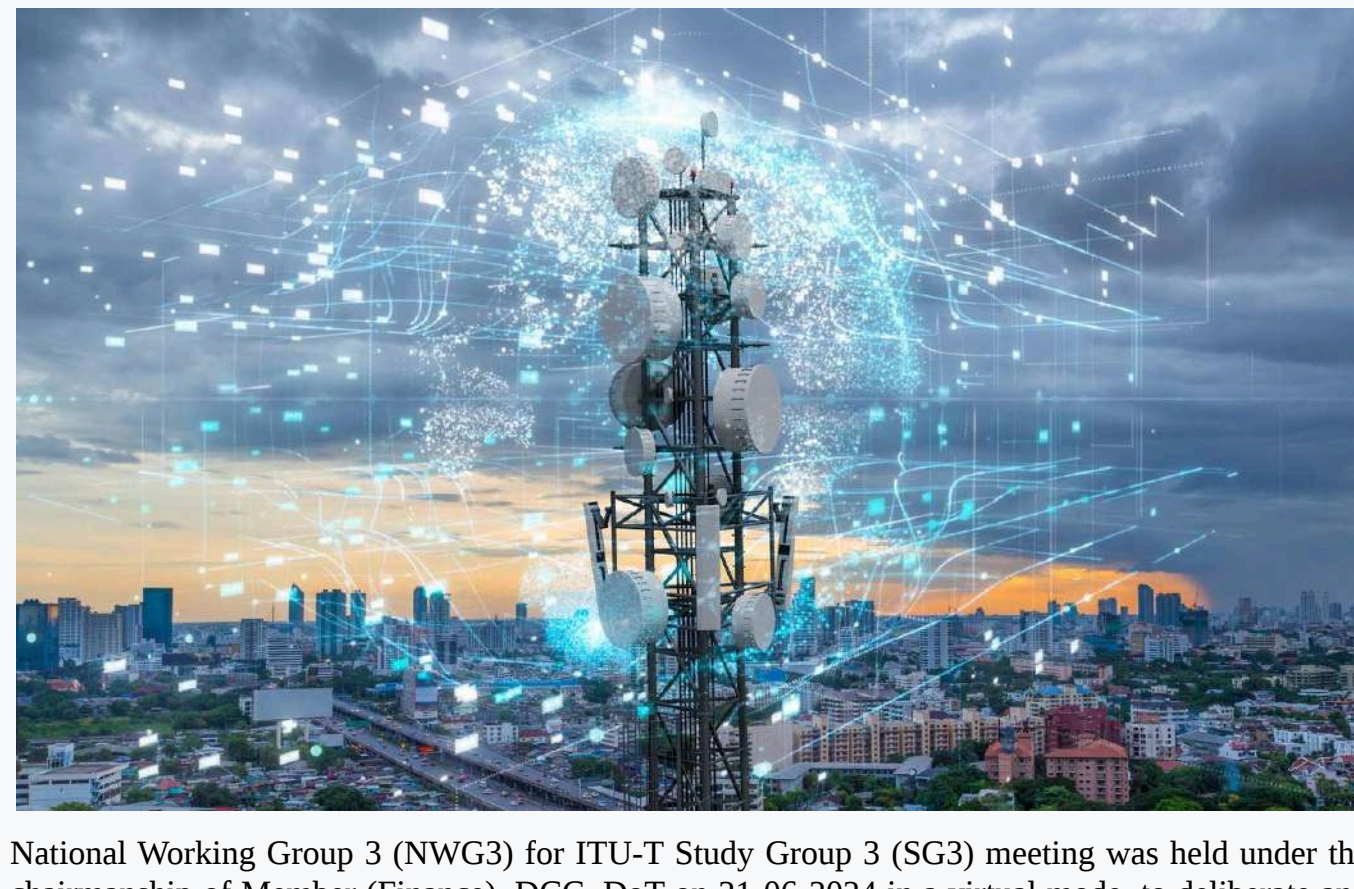
IAFI also granted honorary lifetime membership to all three officers.

Conference on World Wi-Fi Day

On June 20th, 2024, in celebration of World Wi-Fi Day, the Broadband India Forum (BIF) hosted a pivotal conference at Hotel Lalit in New Delhi. Themed "Together for a Better Internet: Wi-Fi: The enabler of affordable and inclusive Broadband for India," the event explored the transformative potential of Wi-Fi in bridging the digital divide and fostering connectivity throughout the nation. Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology was invited as the chief guest. Shri S. N. Gupta in his opening address, welcome all the participants and briefed about the conference in his introductory address. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI was invited as guest speaker and very well explained the India position regarding assignment of full/part of the highly controversial frequency band 5 925 – 7 125 MHz for un-licensed Wi-Fi use.

National Working Group 3 (NWG3) for ITU-T Study Group 3 (SG3)

National Working Group 3 (NWG3) for ITU-T Study Group 3 (SG3) meeting was held under the chairmanship of Member (Finance), DCC, DoT on 21-06-2024 in a virtual mode, to deliberate and finalise the Indian contributions for the upcoming ITU-T SG3 meeting, likely to be held from 09th to 18th July, 2024 at Geneva, Switzerland. Meeting was coordinated by Shri Avinash Agarwal, DDG (Convergence & Broadcasting), TEC. Total 12 contributions were deliberated in the meeting and chairman approved and finalized four contributions to be submitted to the upcoming SG-3 meeting by India.

The Telecommunications Act, 2023: Ushering in new era of connectivity

Government of India issued Gazette Notification on 21.06.2024, for enforcing sections 1, 2, 10 to 30, 42 to 44, 46, 47, 50 to 58, 61 and 62 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The Telecommunications Act, 2023 aims to amend and consolidate the law relating to development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services and telecommunication networks; assignment of spectrum and for matters connected therewith. The Telecommunications Act, 2023 also seeks to repeal existing legislative framework like Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Indian Wireless Telegraph Act, 1933 owing to huge technical advancements in the telecom sector and technologies.

The salient features of the provisions that have been brought into force with effect from 26.06.2024:

1. Definitions: The Telecommunications Act clearly defines various terminologies related to the implementation of the Act thereby reducing uncertainties and improving investor confidence and is a step towards ease of doing business.
2. RoW framework: Right of Way provides for effective RoW framework, both on public and private property. The definition of public entities has been broadened to include government agencies, local bodies and PPP projects like airports, seaports, and highways. Public entities shall be obligated to provide right of way except in special circumstances. The fee for right of way would be subject to a ceiling. The Act provides complete framework for RoW in respect of private property based on mutual agreement. The Act also provides that the RoW to be granted shall be non-discriminatory and as far as practicable on a non-exclusive basis.
3. Common ducts: In line with PM Gati Shakti vision, the law provides for Central Government to establish common ducts and cable corridors.
4. Telecommunication standards: Telecom is a global industry. To ensure national security and promote India's technology developers, the Act lays down powers to set standards and conformity assessment measures for telecommunication services, telecommunication networks, telecommunication security, etc.
5. National Security and Public safety: The Act provides strong provisions to take necessary measures for national security and public safety.
6. Inclusive service delivery, Innovation and technology development: The Act expands the scope of Universal Service Obligation Fund to include supporting universal services in underserved rural, remote, and urban areas; supporting research and development of telecommunication services, technologies, products and pilot projects. The Act also provides legal framework for Regulatory Sandbox to facilitate innovation, and deployment of new technology.
7. Protection of users: Telecommunication is a powerful tool for empowerment of masses. However, it can be misused to cause harm to users. The Act provides measures for protection of users from unsolicited commercial communication and create a grievance redressal mechanism.
8. Digital by design: The Act provides that the implementation shall be digital by design bringing online dispute resolution and other framework.

Section 20 of the act specifies that "In the event of any public emergency, including disaster management, or in the interest of public safety, the Central Government or a State Government, or any officer specially authorised by the Central or State Government, can temporarily take possession of any telecommunication service or network from an authorised entity."

TRAI Consultation Papers

Consultation Papers	Submission Dates	Status
Revision of National Numbering Plan	04th July 2023	Under Development

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
APT: 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-4)	25th - 28th June 2024	15th June 2024
ITU-R: Working Party 5D (WP 5D)	25th June - 02nd July 2024	15th June 2024
ITU-T SG15 - Networks, technologies and infrastructures for transport, access and home	01st July - 12th July 2024	21st June 2024
APT: The 24th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-24)	16th July - 17th July 2024	06th July 2024
APT 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-1)	19th July 2024	09th July 2024
APT: The 5th Meeting of APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-5)	19th Aug 23rd Aug 2024	09th Aug 2024

Telecom Stories:

He worked in various capacities in the personnel, human resource (HR), administration, licensing, vigilance divisions of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and DoT. NEW DELHI: The government on Thursday appointed Anil Kumar Chaudhary as a secretary of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) following the superannuation of V Raghunandan, last month. Chaudhary, a 1989-batch Indian Telecommunication Services (ITS) officer, working as a deputy director general at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), has been deputed for a two-year term, according to a notification. Previously, he was posted as a deputy director general (DDG) at the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has conducted a trial to provide 5G connectivity using balloons in the case of disasters or emergencies. It is also planning to issue a request for proposal (RFP) to conduct a trial for providing 5G services using drones, sources privy to the development said on Friday. The DoT is planning to contact at least five drone companies Zuppa Geo Nav Tech, Ajvaan Autonomous Systems, Comrado Aerospace, Bluenfinity Innovation Labs, and Sagar Defence Engineering, to participate in the RFP for the second pilot project.

The 6G Flagship programme, led by the University of Oulu in Finland and the Bharat 6G Alliance in India, have announced a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster collaborative research and development efforts on 6G wireless technologies. This strategic partnership marks a significant step towards aligning Finland's and India's 6G ambitions to accelerate the development of a resilient, secure, and globally interoperable 6G ecosystems.