

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

TRAI Open House Discussion (OHD) on Service Authorization



Following the enactment of the Telecommunication Act, 2023, the Department of Telecommunications initiated the process of formulating detailed telecom rules. To obtain recommendations from the TRAI, DoT wrote to TRAI on June 21, 2024. In response, TRAI released a consultation paper on July 11, 2024, inviting stakeholders to provide their views on service authorizations under the new Act. TRAI received a total of 48 comments and 17 counter-comments from various stakeholders. On August 21, 2024, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) in virtual mode from 11:00 AM to 6:35 PM. The discussion was open to all stakeholders. From TRAI's side, Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman; Shri Atul Kumar Chaudhary, Secretary; Shri Sheo Bhadra Singh, Principal Advisor (NSL); Shri Akhilesh Kumar Trivedi, Advisor (NSL-II); Shri D. Manoj, Principal Advisor (F&E); and Shri Amit Sharma, Advisor (F&E)-II participated. Approximately 300 participants joined the discussion, including senior experts from various industries, associations and academia. From IAFI side, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President and Shri Misha Bajpai joined the OHD. IAFI submitted its view regarding transition to new authorisation regime, ensuring minimum disruption, need for protecting existing investments as well as attracting new investments into the sector, allowing Pan-India All Service Authorisation, a long awaited demand of the service providers, to facilitate optimal utilization of infrastructure & easier compliance, and merging of NLD and ILD service authorization. IAFI strongly opposed the TRAI suggestion to merge GMPCS and VSAT into a single authorization. IAFI further proposed that VSAT authorization should be allowed, to provide internet to its customers without the need to obtain an ISP authorization. IAFI also proposed for the consolidation of all captive licenses that do not involve any commercial transactions into a single category of a Class license, similar to unlicensed home/office Wi-Fi. This new Class license could encompass various types of captive networks, including CNPN, Private Enterprise Networks, Home Wi-Fi networks, and in-house Internet of Things (IoT) services in homes, factories, and enterprises. IAFI proposed to create a sub-category under the satellite category, for providing unique type of SOS service, through satellite during emergency, only in areas, where there is no mobile or Wi-Fi coverage, to help the citizens seeking help to save life, during emergency. Many countries have already started this service. This issue was supported by majority of the participants. IAFI also proposed to review the Clause 39.6, Chapter-VI (Security Conditions) of the UL, which requires to test network elements against various standards, like ISO, 3GPP etc and there are multiple provisions, including clauses 39.9, 39.10(ii), 39.11(v)(a) etc., requires licensees to maintain the record of the supply chain of equipment. It was intimated that these provisions have now become redundant in view of the MTCTE and NSDTS frameworks, so needs to be reviewed to avoid confusion.

APT Preparatory meeting of WSA-24



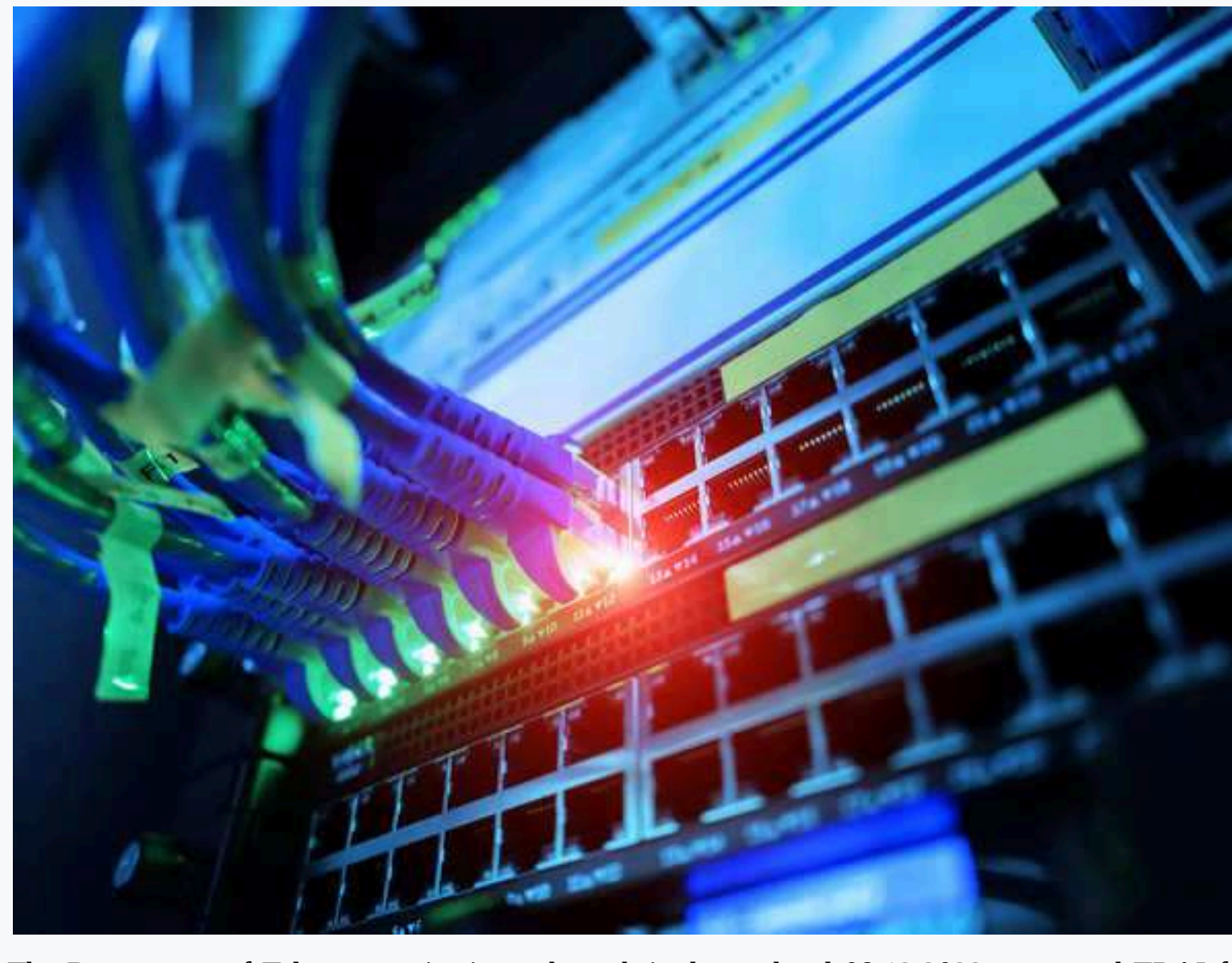
The 5th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WSA-24 (APT WSA24-5) 19 - 23 August 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

The 5th and final APT Preparatory Group meeting for WSA-24 (APT WSA24-5) was held from August 19-23, 2024 in Thailand. It was a hybrid event, with both physical and virtual attendance. Meeting was organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC) of Thailand. The objective of APT WSA24-5 was to assist the APT members to prepare for the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 (WSA-24) which will take place in New Delhi, India from 15 to 24 October 2024. APT WSA24-5 finalized the Preliminary APT Common Proposals (PACPs), for the WSA-24 by other regions and develop possible APT Positions, as appropriate, and develop necessary procedures and APT coordination arrangements during WSA-24. Total 332 delegates participated in the meeting. Since its inception, the work of APT WSA-24 has been divided into three working groups, each with its own specific terms of reference.

- WG-1 - finalized 9 draft PACPs to be upgraded as PACP, 8 on the existing Resolutions – 1, 7, 22, 40, 44, 55, 67, 90 and one as a new resolution.
- WG-2 - finalized 3 draft PACPs to be upgraded as PACP, on the existing Resolutions – 2, 78, 99.
- WG-3 - finalized 27 draft PACPs to be upgraded as PACP, on the existing Resolutions – 20, 29, 47, 50, 52, 58, 60, 61, 64, 65, 70, 72, 73, 76, 77, 79, 84, 88, 89, 90, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98 and six as a new resolutions.

So, total - 38 draft PACPs on existing resolutions were upgraded to PACP and seven draft PACPs on new resolutions were also upgraded to PACP. Meeting also finalized the vice-chair for WSA-24 and Chair/vice-chairs for various committees constituted for WSA-24. India has been nominated to lead 11 APT common proposals at the WSA. Of these IAFI will be present 2 Resolutions while TEC will present 9 other Resolutions.

TRAI released Recommendations on Terahertz



The Department of Telecommunications, through its letter dated 08.12.2022, requested TRAI for recommendations on 'Open and De-licensed use of Unused or Limited used Spectrum Bands for Demand Generation for Limited period in Tera Hertz Range'. On 27.09.2023, TRAI had issued a consultation paper on Open and De-licensed use of Unused or Limited Used Spectrum Bands for Demand Generation for Limited Period in Tera Hertz Range for seeking comments and counter-comments of stakeholders. In response to 17 stake holders' comments, TRAI arranged an Open House Discussion on the consultation paper on 08.03.2024. Based on the comments received from stakeholders in the consultation process, and on its own analysis, TRAI finalized Recommendations on the Tera Hertz Spectrum. The salient features of the Recommendations are as follows:

- The Government should introduce a new experimental authorisation for the spectrum in the 95 GHz to 3 THz range termed as 'Tera Hertz Experimental Authorisation (in short, THEA).
- Any Indian Entity (Academic institute, R&D Laboratory, Central/ State Government, public sector unit, Union Territory, Technology Park, telecommunication service provider, incubator, original equipment manufacturer etc.) should be eligible to obtain THEA.
- The authorization period of THEA should be up to five years. The authorisation should be further extendable for periods of up to five years at a time. The authorisation fee for THEA should be Rs. 1,000 for a period up to five years.
- Authorization and assignment-exempt operations should be permitted in the 116-123 GHz, 174.8-182 GHz, 185-190 GHz, and 244-246 GHz frequency bands in India.
- The 77-81 GHz frequency range should be opened for authorisation and assignment-exempt operations of automotive radar systems in India.

Status of 5G Use cases Labs



The 100 5G Labs initiative was a significant Indian government program aimed at fostering innovation and development in 5G technology. These labs are being established in various educational institutions across the country to provide a platform for students, researchers, and start-ups to experiment with and develop 5G applications. For building 5G competencies and cultivating a pool of skilled professionals in 5G technology, these labs were to encourage innovation, promoting the development of innovative 5G use cases tailored to India's specific needs, and fostering Academia-Industry Collaboration, so bridging the gap between academia and industry to accelerate 5G adoption. Four vendors were selected by DoT for the supply of the equipment. PO has been issued to all four vendors. Currently, 47 labs are in delivery phase or installation and 53 labs are operational.

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	File 1
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 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 - 31st Oct 2024	09th Oct 2024	-
ITU-R: Study Group 4 (SG 4)	01st Nov 2024	19th Oct 2024	-

Telecom Stories:



Telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently met with top telecom service providers to discuss the regulation of Over-the-Top (OTT) communication services. The meeting included Vodafone Idea CEO Akshaya Moondra, Reliance Jio managing director Pankaj Pawar, and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) Director General S P Kochhar. BSNL Chairman Robert J Ravi also participated. Telcos reiterated their demand to bring OTT services like WhatsApp, Telegram, and Skype under regulation, referencing the Telecommunication Act 2023. They argued that the bill's broad definition of "message" could encompass OTT communication services. Other topics included relaxing norms for quality of service. Kochhar said TSPs still grapple with Right of Way (RoW) issues when acquiring permissions for infra deployment on public and private land for installation of towers and fiber-optic cables.

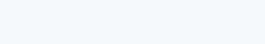


The telecom regulator has proposed a lower cost structure under the PM-Wani public Wi-Fi hotspots scheme as it has failed to gain traction even four years after its launch, mainly because most public Wi-Fi providers are forced to bear exorbitant broadband charges. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), on Friday released a draft tariff amendment order. In that, it has proposed that rates charged by telecom service providers (TSPs) and internet service providers (ISPs) from the public Wi-Fi providers, or public data offices (PDOs), under the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-Wani) scheme shall be the same as applicable to fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) broadband connections for retail users.



Starting June 26, the central government will have the authority to control any telecommunications services or networks during emergencies, following the implementation of the Telecommunications Act 2023. The Centre has partially notified the act, making specific provisions effective from this date. The Centre has partially notified the act, making specific provisions effective from this date. The Gazette notification stated, "The Central government hereby appoints the 26th day of June 2024, as the date on which the provisions of sections 1, 2, 10 to 30, 42 to 44, 46, 47, 50 to 58, 61, and 62 of the said Act shall come into force."

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