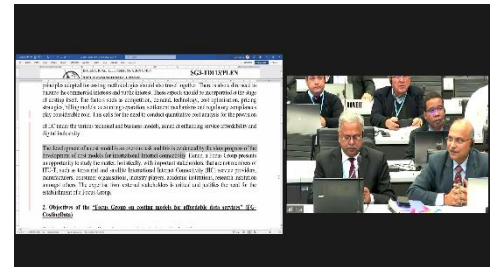


THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

Highlights of the week:

ITU-T- SG3 approves IAFI proposal to create a new ITU Focus Group (FG) on costing models for affordable data services:

ITU-T SG3 meeting in Geneva from 1st of March 2023 to 10th of March 2023 approved the creation of a new Focus Group (FG) on costing models for affordable data services based on a contribution by IAFI and DOT. IAFI and other members from DoT actively participated in this meeting and got the proposal approved. The meeting also approved the nomination of Mr. Shailendra Kumar Mishra, Advisor Finance, DoT, as the first chairman of the focus group and Zimbabwe as the first vice chairman.



ITU is set to open its new Area Office and Innovation Centre in India:

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs), is scheduled to open its new Area Office and Innovation Centre in New Delhi, India on 22nd Mar 2023. This initiative is fully funded by the Government of India, the office will focus on fostering digital technology uptake in South Asia in line with sustainable development, strengthening technology cooperation, and boosting regional telecommunications development.



IAFI Recommends TRAI to permit full sharing of active infrastructure and sharing of inter-band spectrum between various licensees:

IAFI has told TRAI that sharing must be permitted across all telecommunication service licenses it will substantially reduce the entrance and operational costs and further reduce the development risks for all operators when offering new services and applications. This was well covered in the media: [IAFI tells TRAI to permit full sharing of active infrastructure | Communications Today](#)



6Ghz spectrum delicensing:

IAFI has been pushing for delicensing of the 6GHz band for Wi-Fi usage. As 6GHz spectrum includes scope for improved Wi-Fi speeds leading to the boosting of government's internet accessibility programme. IAFI in its recent letter to Ashwini Vaishnav also emphasised that Wi-Fi using the 6GHz radio band open up over 1Ghz of extra bandwidth a boon for high congestion.



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TRAI Consultation papers

Consultation Papers	Submission Date	Status	Submission
Enabling Convergence of Carriage of Broadcasting and Telecommunication services	27 th March 2023	Under Development	-
Introduction of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) Authorization under Unified License (UL)	06 th April 2023	Under Development	-
Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	Next IAFI Meetings
ITU-R: Radio Regulations Board (RRB)	20 th March – 24 th March 2023	28 th February 2023	-
ITU-R: CPM WRC-23, Geneva	27 th March to 6 th April 2023	13 th March 2023	15 TH March 2023
APT: 35th APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-35)	17 th April – 20 th April 2023	10 th April 2023	-
ITU-T: SG15 - Networks, technologies and infrastructures for transport, access and home	17 th April – 28 th April 2023	10 th April 2023	-
APT: 1st Meeting of APT Preparatory Group for WTSA 24 (APT WTSA24-1)	21 st April 2023	11 th April 2023	-

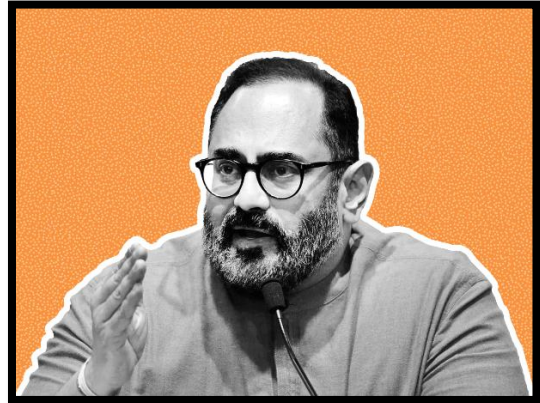
Telecom Stories:

The Mobile phone operators are exploring deploying artificial intelligence (AI)-led interventions to address the issue of pesky calls, with some saying they may even extend the blockchain based solution currently being used for messages to calling. The move comes even as mobile users are being increasingly bombarded by the menace of pesky calls and messages, leading to thousands of crores of financial fraud.



THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

The draft Digital India Bill, which will replace the Information Technology Act, 2000 is likely to be ready by early July. There will be at least two more consultations on the principles of the Bill by March 20 and the draft consultation will last 90 days. The stakeholders consisted of law firms, technology companies, technology policy groups and consumers. The bill seeks to manage the complexities of the internet and rapid expansion of types of intermediaries protect citizens' rights, address emerging technologies and risks, and be future proof.



The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) move to make a caller's name flash on the phone screen when a user receives a call may be delayed due to concerns over personal data protection flagged by stakeholders. The regulator is likely to examine if the feature would be in sync with the Personal Data Protection Bill and past supreme court rulings on privacy.

