

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

3rd India Spectrum Management Conference, ISMC-23



ITU-APT Foundation of India, along with the University of Chicago, SpectrumX, and IIT Delhi jointly hosted a very successful three-day mega event, the "3rd India Spectrum Management Conference" in New Delhi. It was a joint Indo-US conference, a three-day mega event from 16th to 18th Oct, 2023, on Spectrum & Telecommunications Policy and Technology for Future Wireless Systems. The comprehensive three-day conference delved into the intricacies of spectrum policies, issues, and challenges, charting a path for the future of wireless systems. It featured in-depth sessions on spectrum planning across various frequency bands, encompassing Sub-1 GHz, 1-6 GHz, 6-7 GHz, 7-24 GHz, and bands above 24 GHz, including THz frequencies.

Day-1 of the event was held at UChicago Delhi Center, with inaugural address by Dr. Monisha Ghosh, Professor, Electrical Engineering, University of Notre Dame, USA and Mr. Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI and keynote speeches by Mr. Charles Cooper, Associate Administrator, Office of Spectrum Management, NTIA, USA and Shri VJ Christopher, Wireless Advisor to the Govt. of India.

Day-2 & 3 of the event was held at Le Meridian with inaugural address by prominent dignitaries viz Dr. Monisha Ghosh, Prof Rajeev Shorey, Professor, IIT Delhi, Shri V J Christopher, Wireless Advisor, Mr. Charles Cooper, Associate Administrator, Office of Spectrum Management, NTIA, USA, Smt. Gunjan Dave, Member (Technology), DCC, DoT, Shri Manish Sinha, Member (Finance), DCC, DoT and Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), India.

The conference was a big success, with robust participation of attendees from all over the world, enabled the event to achieve its main aim of bringing together senior government officials from DoT, TEC, BSNL, TRAI, ISRO, and DoS, as well as industry experts and regulators from India and many other countries and fostered a collaborative environment for addressing the complexities of spectrum allocation and utilization, ensuring the seamless evolution of wireless technologies and WRC-23 & WRC-27 issues.

The Conference was well covered by the media: <https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/itu-apt-joint-spectrum-conference-with-university-of-chicago-and-iit-delhi-ismc-23-concludes-after-3-days-of-hectic-discussions-on-key-spectrum-opportunities-and-challenges/>

Meeting of National Preparatory Committee (NPC) for WRC-23



A meeting of the National Preparatory Committee (NPC) for WRC-23 was held on 19-10-2023 at Spectrum Room, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Wireless Advisor, DoT, to discuss the draft proposal of India, for the upcoming WRC-23. Mr Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI and Mr. Jitendra Singh, Vice President, participated in the meeting. WRC-23 draft proposals AI 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 (Band-A), 1.5, 1.7, 1.8, 1.11 (Issue-c), 1.12, 1.13, 1.15, 1.16, 7, 8 and 10 were discussed in details. In addition, two draft proposal directly received by the NPC, AI 1.2 (6425 – 7025 MHz) of COAI and AI 1.10 (Frequency bands for IMT) of GSA, were also discussed. However, there was no support for the COAI proposal on 6GHz for IMT and it was agreed to maintain India's opposition to this proposal

Letter to Secretary, DoT regarding formulation of a new Policy for Spectrum Swapping



IAFI in a letter to Secretary, DoT requested to formulate a policy allowing TSPs to swap the existing spectrum in one band with another band that they need, while being revenue neutral to the exchequer. Considering spectrum as a scarce natural resource and needs to be utilized efficiently, and to provide the best service to the consumers, IAFI suggested an innovative idea of spectrum swapping, for more efficient spectrum utilization, to increase investment in mobile infrastructure, improving competition, and ultimately better services to the consumers. It is proposed that the DoT should allow swapping of spectrum held by TSPs in one band with spectrum available with the Government in other bands, as it will help service providers to consolidate their spectrum holdings in the bands, where they needed the most, and to free up spectrum in the bands, where not using it efficiently, thereby improving the spectrum efficiency. Entire process will be either revenue neutral or positive to the Government and TSPs has to pay the difference of amount, which can be calculated based on the last auction-determine price or as per the prevailing market rates, if the auction determined price is more than a year old.

Meeting of the National Working Group 3 (NWG3) for ITU-T Study Group 3 (SG-3)



A meeting of the National Working Group 3 (NWG3) was held on 18-10-2023 at Board Room, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Sh. Manish Sinha, Member (Finance), DCC, DoT, to discuss the various issues likely to come up in the SG-3 meeting, going to be held in November 2023, at Geneva. Brief of activities of the newly constituted Focus Group, FG-CD under SG-3 was also discussed. During the discussion, Member (Finance) expressed keen interest on the scope of work of the FG-CD and possible contributions in future meetings by India. It was explained in the meeting that basic proposal to create a dedicated Focus Group to study Costing Models for Affordable Data Services, was submitted by the IAFI in the SG-3 plenary in Nov, 2022 and after a long discussion, proposal was approved and adopted. Finally, Focus Group was created in March, 2023 and its first meeting was held in Oct, 2023. Member (F) desires that more and more contributions should be submitted by India in future meetings.

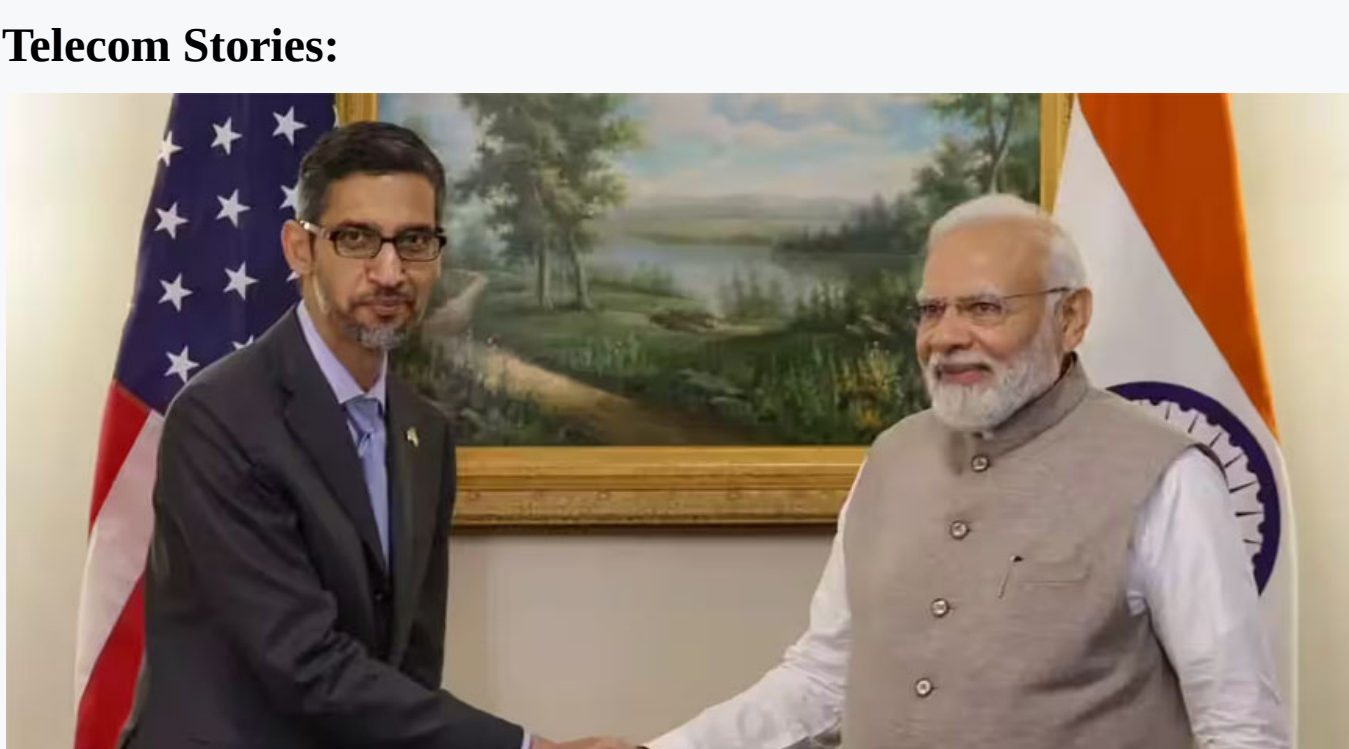
TRAI Consultation Papers

Consultation Papers	Submission Dates	status
OPEN AND DE-LICENSED USE OF UNUSED OR LIMITED USED SPECTRUM BANDS FOR DEMAND GENERATION FOR LIMITED PERIOD IN TERA HERTZ RANGE	15th Nov 2023	Under Development
ASSIGNMENT OF SPECTRUM IN E&V BANDS, AND SPECTRUM FOR MICROWAVE ACCESS (MWA) & MICROWAVE BACKBONE (MWB)	15th Nov 2023	Under Development
REVIEW OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PMRTS AND CMRTS LICENSES	07th Nov 2023	Under Development

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R: Radio Regulations Board (RRB)	23rd Oct - 27th Oct 2023	16th Oct 2023
ITU-T: SG13 - Future networks and emerging network technologies	23rd Oct - 3rd Nov 2023	16th Oct 2023
ITU-T: SG3 Plenary Meeting	6th Nov - 10th Nov 2023	30th Oct 2023
ITU-R: ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23)	20th Nov - 15th Dec 2023	20th Oct 2023

Telecom Stories:






Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday interacted with Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai virtually and discussed the technological giant's plan to participate in expanding the electronics manufacturing ecosystem in India. The prime minister's office (PMO) said Modi appreciated Google's partnership with HP to manufacture chromebooks in India.



The department of telecommunications (DoT) is evaluating around 440 proposals worth over Rs 1,000 crore for funding under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) scheme. The TTDF was instituted on October 1, 2022 to support rural-specific communication applications as well as promote technology ownership, indigenous manufacturing, and creation of intellectual property for telecom products and solutions.



New Delhi: The department of telecommunications (DoT) intends to hold the next spectrum auctions within the ongoing financial year or latest by early next financial year, at the same reserve prices as the 2022 auctions for existing spectrum bands, a senior official said. "The Union cabinet had decided that there has to be auction every year. We sent our proposal to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) seeking the recommendation for the next auction. They said that DoT already has the original price, terms and conditions, eligibility criteria for the legacy bands, so you go ahead with all those conditions and immediately conduct the auctions," Gulab Chand, joint wireless adviser, WPC Wing of the DoT said at an event on Thursday. He added that the TRAI had given this clarity to the department, but for auctioning the new Q & V bands, the regulator has sought more time for recommending availability and reserve pricing.

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