

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

India Mobile Congress - 2023 (IMC-2023)



Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 27-10-2023 inaugurated 7th India Mobile Congress (IMC), at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The three-day India Mobile Congress - 2023 held from 27-10-2023 to 29-10-2023, showcased the latest digital innovations, ideas, and use cases across key industries and sectors. Mr Bharat Bhatia, President and many other members of IAFI attended the inaugural ceremony. Theme of the IMC-2023 was Global Digital Innovation. It was Asia's largest digital technology forum, where voice, data, and a billion people converge.

The event was attended by more than 250 global speakers, 400+ exhibitors, 1000+ media personnel, and 100,000+ visitors including delegates, student and academia, MSMEs, and government representatives. IMC-2023 has demonstrated the latest and most innovative products and services in the field of digital technologies, including 5G, 6G, IoT, AI, broadcasting, satellite, and semiconductor manufacturing. The event also featured a comprehensive conference program with keynote addresses and panel discussions from industry leaders and experts. Mr Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI also delivered the lecture on the topic "Need for Evolution of Auction Designs & other Market Mechanisms for Optimal Allocation & Utilization of Spectrum".

Mr. Bhatia in his presentation highlighted the need for next spectrum reforms including spectrum swapping policy, lowering of reserve prices for bands below 1 GHz, delicensing of 6GHz and spectrum harmonization. A copy of his presentation can be seen here – [Click Here](#)

Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted India's rapid 5G rollout, as a model for other countries to follow. He emphasized that India did not halt after the success of 5G and took on the work of taking it to every individual. Prime Minister informed that within one year of 5G rollout, 4 lakh 5G base stations has been deployed, covering more than 97 percent of the cities and 80 percent of the population. Even the speed of median mobile broadband speeds has increased 3 times within one year, as India moved from the 118th position to the 43rd position in terms of broadband speed. India is not only expanding the 5G network in the country but also laying emphasis on becoming a leader in 6G.

Media coverage regarding Spectrum Swapping issue raised by IAFI



ET Telecom reported on a letter written by the President, IAFI to the Secretary, DoT proposing an innovative idea of spectrum swapping. IAFI requested DoT to formulate a policy allowing telecom service providers (TSPs) to swap their existing spectrum in one band with another band that they need, while maintaining or even increasing revenue for the government. Further, swapping can prevent spectrum hoarding by encouraging operators and will allow operators to adapt to changing technology. [Click Here](#)

Draft comments on three Consultation Papers released by TRAI



TRAI has invited comments on the following three Consultation Papers, as detailed below.

1. Consultation Paper on Assignment of Spectrum in E&V Bands, and Spectrum for Microwave Access (MWA) & Microwave Backbone (MWB).
2. 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.
3. Consultation Paper on Review of Terms and Conditions of PMRTS and CMRTS Licenses.

Draft comments were circulated to all members for comments and it is planned to hold a meeting of stakeholders on Thursday 2nd November at 12 PM IST at the IAFI office to discuss and finalize our draft response to TRAI.

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-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: Radiocommunication Assemblies (RA)	13th Nov - 17th Nov 2023	06th Nov 2023
ITU-R: ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23)	20th Nov - 15th Dec 2023	20th Oct 2023
ITU-T: Focus Group on "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) for Digital Agriculture" (FG-AI4A)	1st Dec 2023	24th Nov 2023

Telecom Stories:



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for India to become self-reliant in cybersecurity across hardware and software, and said that having control over the value chain will ensure the security of the country's digital infrastructure. "For cybersecurity, self-reliance is very important in the entire manufacturing value chain - be it hardware, software or connectivity. When everything in the value chain is under our national domain, it will help us in keeping them secure," PM Modi said at the seventh edition of the India Mobile Congress.



The government wants India's telecom service to remain the most affordable in the entire world, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said today. According to the telecom sector industry body Cellular Operators Association of India, telecom operators have not been able to monetise 5G service since its launch last year. "From the government side, we are very clear. We would like telecom service to continue to remain the most affordable in the entire world and today among all large economies India's telecom sector is the most affordable telecom sector," Vaishnaw told PTI in an interview at India Mobile Congress 2023.



Ericsson announced the launch of its 'India 6G' program with the formation of an India 6G Research team in its Chennai R&D Center. Ericsson has three R&D Centers in India: in Chennai, Bengaluru and Gurgaon. This 'India 6G' team comprises of senior research leaders and a team of experienced researchers across Radio, Networks, AI and Cloud, who have been entrusted with developing fundamental solutions for the future of telecommunications.

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