

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

IAFI letter to newly appointed Secretary, DoT regarding delicensing lower 6GHz band for Wi-Fi



President IAFI in a letter to the newly appointed Secretary, DoT shri Apurva Chandra, requested for urgent delicensing of the lower 6GHz band to support consumer internet interest and innovation in the country. Highlighting the Hon'ble PM quote that technology is a tool for the nation's progress, universal and meaningful internet connectivity is necessary to all citizens to enjoy the benefits of numerous applications developed under Digital India campaign. It was also pointed out in the letter that in a recent study conducted by CUTS, poor families of rural area with more family members are trapped in a vicious Wi-Fi exclusion trap, due to lack of Wi-Fi services and all family members cannot afford separate data connection from mobile operators. As more than 60 countries in the world has already delicensed 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi use, India should also consider license-exempt lower 6GHz band, to decongest the existing Wi-Fi bands like its contemporaries.

First meeting of newly constituted regional group viz SG-3 RGAO at Bangkok, Thailand



First meeting of new constituted regional group ITU-T SG-3 RGAO under the chairmanship of Shri S.K.MISRA, ex-Advisor (Finance), DoT, is expected to be held on September 11-12, 2023 at Bangkok, Thailand. Term of Reference of the group has been approved by the ITU-T. IAFI decided to submit at least three contributions in the upcoming meeting and process for the same has already been initiated. Meeting invite is well circulated to all members.

TSDSI Standards ATSA 3.0 being considered as a National Standard by TEC



Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) in constituting Telecom Standards Advisory Committee (TSAC), a prestigious committee, for adoption of TSDSI standards ATSC 3.0, as National Standard by Telecommunications Engineering Centre (TEC). IAFI has asked TEC to nominate IAFI as a member.

TRAI Consultation Papers

Consultation Papers	Submission Dates	status
REGULATORY MECHANISM FOR OVER-THE-TOP (OTT) COMMUNICATION SERVICES	18th Aug 2023	Under Development

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
APT: The 6th Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC- 23 (APG23-6)	14th – 19th Aug 2023	07th Aug 2023
ITU-R: Working Parties 6A, 6B and 6C	28th Aug - 7th Sep 2023	21st Aug 2023
APT: 16th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-16)	29th Aug - 1st Sep 2023	23rd Aug 2023
ITU-T: SG3 Regional Group for Asia and Oceania (SG3RG-AO)	11th - 12th Sep 2023	07th Sep 2023
ITU-R: WP 5A	13th - 21st Sep 2023	09th Sep 2023
ITU-R: 3rd ITU Inter-regional Workshop on WRC-23 Preparation	27th - 29th Sep 2023	20th Sep 2023
ITU-T: Focus Group on cost models for affordable data services (FG-CD), and its first meeting and associated Workshop	04th - 6th Oct 2023	27th Sep 2023

Telecom Stories:



The Cabinet is also learnt to have cleared the Postal Services Bill, 2023 dealing with the functioning of post offices in the country, which will replace the Indian Post Office Act of 1898, they said. This bill is slated to be taken to Parliament for approval in the ongoing monsoon session.

The government had issued the new telecom bill called the Draft Indian Telecommunications Bill, 2022 in September last year where it proposed to increase the scope of telecommunication services by including over-the-top (OTT), internet-based and satellite-based communication services, broadcasting, internet and broadband services within its ambit, which has been red flagged by social media and technology companies in the messaging space as it could lead to regulation of OTT communication apps. The bill is likely to address the issue of regulation of OTTs.



"The world's fastest 5G rollout continues. Over 3 lakh 5G sites installed in 714 districts," Vaishnav said on social media platform Koo. Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel are the only telecom operators rolling out 5G services in the country.



Bharti Airtel has successfully tested 5G services and data speeds on both the 26 GHz or millimetre (mmWave) band and 3300 MHz spectrum bands in West Bengal.

The Department of Telecommunications' West Bengal service area wing undertook the testing to check minimum rollout obligations (MRO).

"Today, DoT's WB LSA (licence service area) conducted testing for 5G services of Bharti Airtel in both 3300 MHz and 26 GHz bands in Kharagpur, West Bengal... the data speeds observed during the testing were 566 Mbps for 3300 MHz and 1 Gbps for 26 GHz bands," the telecom department said on Twitter Thursday.