



Quarterly Newsletter

Quarter Highlights (October to December 2025)

Dear Respected Member,

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is delighted to share its previous month's activities with you:

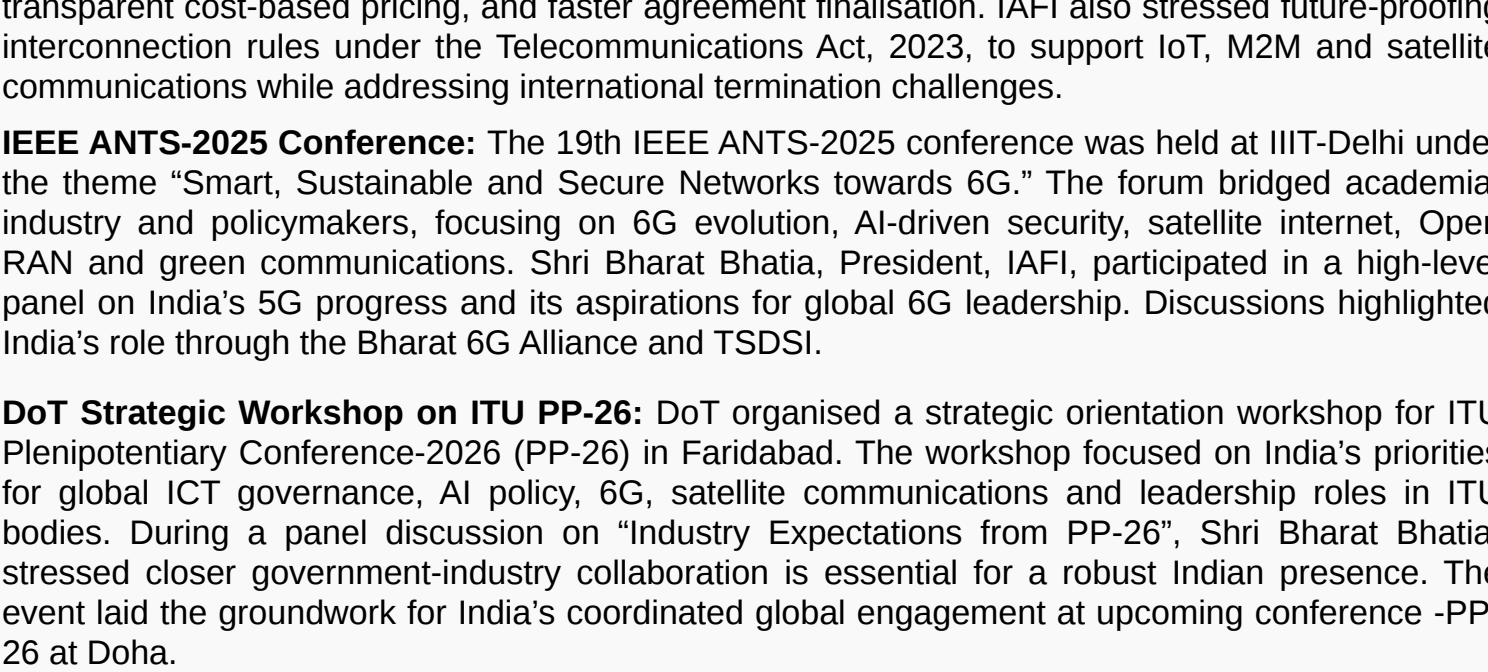


India Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC-2025) – Day 1: IAFI successfully organised the 5th India Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC- 2025) on December 15–16, 2025, in New Delhi, bringing together over 150 national and international experts. The inaugural session featured senior leadership from TRAI, DoT, C-DOT, ITU and NTIA (USA), underscoring India's growing alignment with global spectrum policy. Discussions focused on spectrum policy, terrestrial and satellite roadmaps, Wi-Fi spectrum, and preparations for WRC-27. Chairman, TRAI, Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti emphasized that spectrum delivers its full value only through the effective convergence of policy, technology and services.

India Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC-2025) – Day 2: Day-2 focused on future-ready regulatory frameworks, leveraging AI-driven spectrum management and emerging IMT bands, particularly specific emphasis on the 7–8 GHz range. Chief Guest Shri Deb Kumar Chakrabarti, Member (Services), DCC, DoT, emphasized coordinated planning for WRC-27. Sessions addressed satellite services, Direct-to-Cell connectivity, and technical challenge of unauthorized NGSO emissions. Concluding the event, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, acknowledged the strong support of industry sponsors, government partners and the media for elevating the ISMC-2025 into a global-standard forum.

7th NSG-6 Meeting: The 7th meeting of NSG-6 was held at DoT HQ, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, focusing on strengthening India's engagement in ITU-R Study Group-6. Shri N.K. Bhola, Chairman, NSG-6, urged timely domestic submissions to enhance India's global influence. Key updates included progress on digital terrestrial television standards, multimedia broadcasting and D2M trials led by Prasar Bharati and IIT Kanpur. Members were encouraged to lead specific work items to ensure proactive international participation.

TRAI Open House Discussion on IMT Spectrum Auction: TRAI conducted an Open House Discussion on December 12, 2025, on the upcoming IMT spectrum auction framework. TSs and IAFI jointly advocated for a substantial reduction in reserve prices, citing heavy 5G CAPEX and current monetisation challenges. IAFI specifically proposed reserving the upper 6 GHz band for IMT/6G, delicensing the lower 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi, flexible payment terms with a moratorium, and inclusion of the 600 MHz band. These deliberations will shape TRAI recommendations for the 2026 auction.



IAFI Comments on TRAI Consultation Paper regarding Interconnection: IAFI submitted detailed comments on TRAI's review of interconnection regulations, advocating for modernized framework that aligns with IP-based, 5G and satellite networks. The Foundation called for mandatory IP interconnection, to replace legacy circuit-switched systems, clearer satellite PoS, transparent cost-based pricing, and faster agreement finalisation. IAFI also stressed future-proofing interconnection rules under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, to support IoT, M2M and satellite communications while addressing international termination challenges.

IEEE ANTS-2025 Conference: The 19th IEEE ANTS-2025 conference was held at IIT-Delhi under the theme "Smart, Sustainable and Secure Networks towards 6G." The forum bridged academia, industry and policymakers, focusing on 6G evolution, AI-driven security, satellite internet, Open RAN and green communications. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, participated in a high-level panel on India's 5G progress and its aspirations for global 6G leadership. Discussions highlighted India's role through the Bharat 6G Alliance and TSGDS.

DoT Strategic Workshop on ITU PP-26: DoT organised a strategic orientation workshop for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference-2026 (PP-26) in Faridabad. The workshop focused on India's priorities for global ICT governance, AI policy, 6G, satellite communications and leadership roles in ITU bodies. During a panel discussion on "Industry Expectations from PP-26", Shri Bharat Bhatia, stressed closer government-industry collaboration is essential for a robust Indian presence. The event laid the groundwork for India's coordinated global engagement at upcoming conference -PP-26 at Doha.

DoT 2025 Year-End Review: DoT's year-end review highlighted transformational growth in India's digital infrastructure. Internet connections crossed 100 crore milestone, with broadband subscription surged to nearly 100 crore, and no less than one of the world's highest data consumer, with average data consumption reached 24 GB per user per month. 5G coverage now spans 99.9% of districts, supported by over 5 lakh BTSs. Significant spectrum reforming has strengthened India's readiness for next-generation services.

1st Inter-Regional Information Session (IRIS-1) on WRC-27: ITU hosted the first Inter-Regional Information Session (IRIS-1) on WRC-27 preparation in Geneva, bringing together all six ITU regional groups, to synchronize their preparatory studies and regulatory positions. Discussions covered IMT spectrum, satellite services, radio astronomy protection and lunar communications. Indian interests were strongly represented by IAFI and industry experts. The session marked the formal start of inter-regional coordination for WRC-27.



IMC-2025: The India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 is currently running as Asia's largest technology and telecom event, held from October 8 to October 11, 2025, at the Vashohoomi Convention Centre in Dwarka, New Delhi. Co-organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), the 9th edition operates under the theme "Innovate to Transform" and focuses on positioning India as a global hub for telecom innovation and digital self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat). The event, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, features key themes including 6G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Satellite Communication (Satcom), Semiconductors, Quantum Communications, and Cyber-security. Highlights include the International Bharat 6G Symposium, the International AI Summit, and the IMC Aspire Programme, which connects over 500 startups with investors. With an expected attendance of over 1.5 lakh visitors, 7,000 global delegates, and 400 companies, the IMC 2025 is showcasing over 1,600 new use-cases across next-generation technologies.

ITU-TRAI Workshop on QoS and QoE: ITU and TRAI jointly organised a global workshop on Quality of Service and Quality of Experience in Bhubaneswar. With participation from 39 countries, the event focused on best practices for reliable, secure telecom services. The workshop reinforced global cooperation under ITU-T Study Group-12 and WTSA Resolution-95. It strengthened regulatory capacity-building across regions.

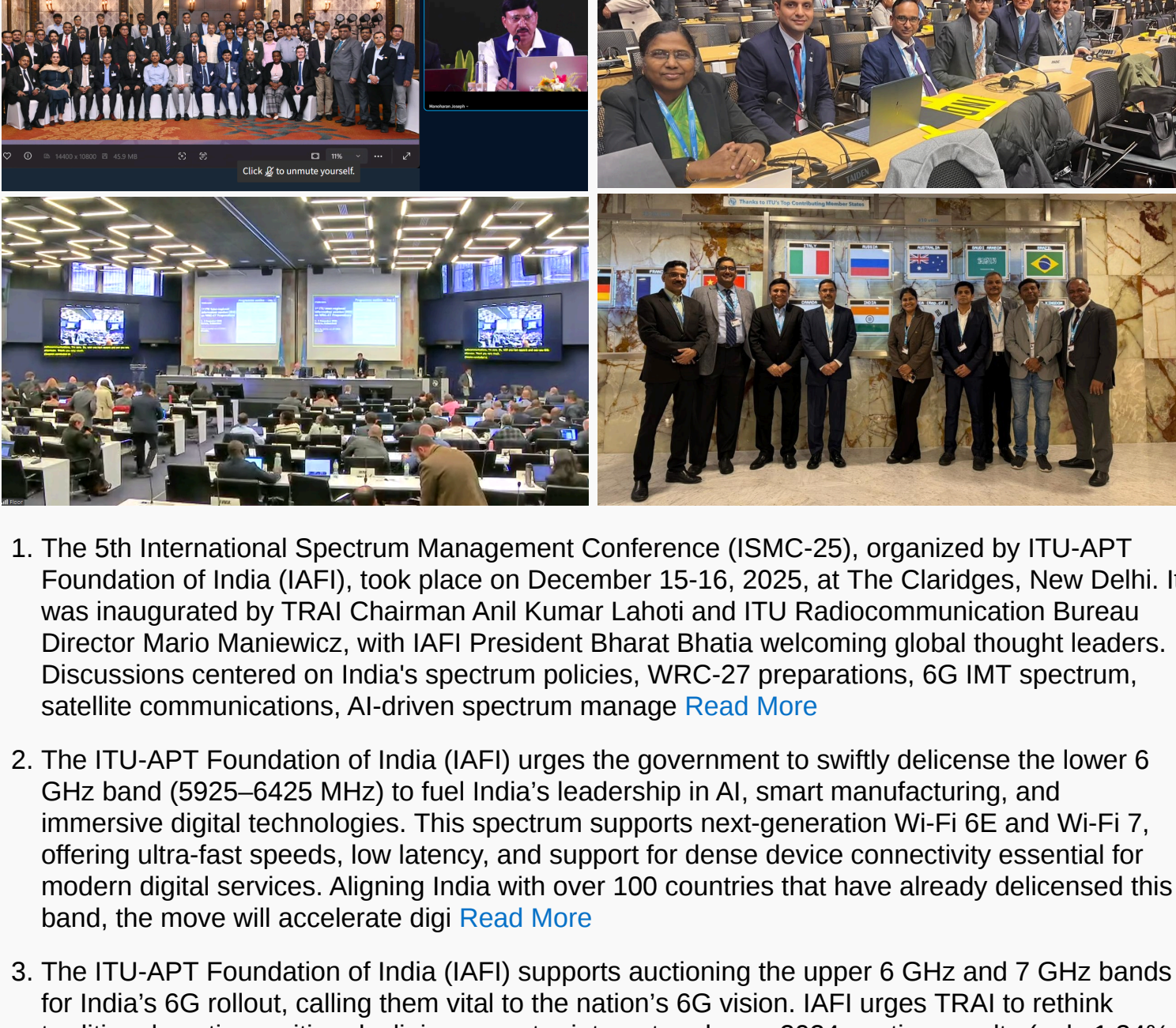
NCA-T Webinar on Blockchain: NCA-Technology, Ghaziabad, conducted a webinar on blockchain applications, explaining core principles and real-world use cases. The session provided a comprehensive overview of core principles, including decentralization, smart contracts, and distributed ledgers, while examining their transformative potential in telecom, finance, governance and cybersecurity applications. Simplified explanations made the technology accessible to non-technical audiences. The webinar concluded with insights on emerging opportunities and implementation challenges shaping India's digital ecosystem.

World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25): WTDC-25 was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, under the theme of universal and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and Sustainable Digital Future. The conference adopted the Baku Declaration and Baku Action Plan (2025-2029), reinforcing global commitment to bridging digital divides. Indian delegation was led by Hon'ble MoS, Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani. India successfully advanced two IAFI-supported resolutions focused on Smart Villages (Resolution 85) and the development of Global Innovation Ecosystems, significantly reinforcing India's role as a leader in global telecommunications development policy.

India's Leadership in IPv6: India emerged as the leading country in Asia for IPv6 deployment, with 86% of internet traffic is now on IPv6. This milestone is the result of proactive government mandates and large-scale migration by major telecom operators. With this, India has secured virtually unlimited address availability to support the exponential growth of IoT, 5G-Advanced, and future 6G ecosystems. Now ranked third globally in total IPv6 usage, India continues to set a benchmark for digital infrastructure modernization and network scalability.

NIXI and Internet Traffic Optimisation: he National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has expanded its footprint to 79 Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), a strategic move that has significantly lowered latency and reduced transit costs nationwide. By localising traffic and connecting over 350 ISPs, NIXI supports peak data rates of 1.5 Tbps. This infrastructure strengthens network resilience and improves end-user experience nationwide. It also supports India's digital sovereignty objectives.

Media Showcase: Following Items relating to IAFI were covered in the media



- The 5th International Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC-25), organized by ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI), took place on December 15-16, 2025, at The Claridges, New Delhi. It was inaugurated by TRAI Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti and ITU Radiocommunication Bureau Director Mario Maniewicz, with IAFI President Bharat Bhatia welcoming global thought leaders. Discussions centered on India's spectrum policies, WRC-27 preparations, 6G IMT spectrum, satellite communications, AI-driven spectrum manage [Read More](#)
- The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) urges the government to swiftly delicense the lower 6 GHz band (5925–6425 MHz) to fuel India's leadership in AI, smart manufacturing, and immersive digital technologies. This spectrum supports next-generation Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7, offering ultra-fast speeds, low latency, and support for dense device connectivity essential for modern digital services. Aligning India with over 100 countries that have already delicensed this band, the move will accelerate digi [Read More](#)
- The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) supports auctioning the upper 6 GHz and 7 GHz bands for India's 6G rollout, calling them vital to the nation's 6G vision. IAFI urges TRAI to align with traditional auctions, citing declining operator interest and poor 2024 auction results (only 1.34% spectrum sold). It recommends including contiguous spectrum up to 8400 MHz to enable ultra-broadband connectivity and align with global shifts toward more innovation-friendly spectrum policies. [Read More](#)
- IAFI continues to champion India's leadership in telecom and ICT innovation worldwide. Its President, Mr. Bharat B Bhatia, emphasizes the urgent need for clear SATCOM and 6GHz spectrum policies to sustain India's AI and 6G competitiveness. Speaking from Geneva while chairing the 6G standards meeting, he highlighted risks from policy delays on 6GHz and nonGSO satellites. Swift action is crucial to unlock innovation in AI, blockchain, and rural connectivity. [Read More](#)
- The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) commends the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for releasing the draft Telecommunications Rules, 2025 (GSR 606E) under the Telecom Act, 2023—a crucial milestone in shaping India's telecom future. IAFI urges DoT to align the new authorisation framework with TRAI's recommendations to promote transparency, inclusiveness, and innovation. These reforms promise to strengthen India's digital ecosystem and regulatory clarity. [Read More](#)
- The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) respectfully appeals to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji to expedite delicensing of the lower 6GHz band(5925–6425 MHz) for unlicensed WiFi use. This vital spectrum will boost WiFi6E deployment and accelerate India's AI, IoT, and digital innovation ecosystem. Timely action will ensure India's leadership in the global technology race. Empowering access to this spectrum will drive inclusive growth and digital empowerment across the nation. [Read More](#)
- IAFI Urges Prompt Delicensing of Lower 6 GHz Band. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has urged the Minister of Communications to promptly delicense the lower 6 GHz band (5925–6425 MHz) to boost innovation, local manufacturing, and exports. Despite a Gazette notification in May 2025, the final rules are still pending, risking economic losses of up to ₹12.7 lakh crore annually and missing out on global opportunities worth \$4 trillion. IAFI emphasized that timely delicensing is critical for [Read More](#)
- We are proud to share that Mr. Bharat B Bhatia, President of the ITU-APT FOUNDATION OF INDIA (IAFI), has been nominated as Chair of the Editorial Committee for the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG-27), from the Republic of India. This prestigious nomination—made on the recommendation of the Heads of Delegation during the 2nd Meeting of APG27 (APG27-2)—recognizes the role of Editorial Committee Chair as being equivalent to Vice Chair of the Plenary. The proposal, formally moved by [Read More](#)
- TRAI Chairman Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, speaking at ISPC-25 in New Delhi, highlighted the vital role of satellite communication in bridging India's digital divide and advancing national inclusion goals. He emphasized TRAI's balanced recommendations, including a 4% AGR fee for satellite spectrum use, to support industry growth. Lahoti also stressed the importance of non-terrestrial networks (NTNs) in enabling nationwide connectivity and achieving UN SDGs. [Read More](#)
- India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has highlighted satellite internet as a key solution for expanding connectivity in rural and remote regions, where laying traditional networks like fiber or microwave is challenging. With 100% FDI permitted in the sector, DoT is promoting telecom manufacturing under the upcoming Telecom Policy 2025. Satellite services are expected to grow as devices shrink and become more smartphone-compatible. [Read More](#)

Links to our Activities & Programmes

- The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Government of India, New Delhi for Urgent Appeal to Expedite Delicensing of the Lower 6 GHz Band to Secure India's AI Leadership and Digital Future.
- Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Prompt delicensing of the 5925–6425 MHz Band for immediate Indoor Wi-Fi use and support innovation and "Make in India".
- Letter to The Joint Secretary (Telecom) Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India for IAFI comments/suggestions on the Draft National Telecom Policy (NTP), 2025, circulated by the Policy Section of DoT on 24-07-2025.
- Letter to The Joint Secretary (Telecom) Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India for IAFI comments/suggestions on the DoT Notification No. G.S.R.- 411(E), regarding draft Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024, issued on 24-06-2025.
- Letter to The Joint Secretary (Telecom) Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India for IAFI comments on the DoT Notification No. G.S.R.316 (E) – Lower 6GHz Wi-Fi
- Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Urgent Need for Delicensing the 5925–6425 MHz Band to Support Innovation and Make in India
- Letter to Wireless Advisor to the Government of India, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, Shri V J Christopher for Request for Consideration of Allowing Lower Size Antennas less than 1.2 M in the Lower Ku-Band (13.75-14 GHz)
- Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Spectrum Allocation for 6G in India
- Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Urgent Need for Spectrum Assignment and Regulatory Clarity for Satellite Services
- Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia for Strategic Spectrum Allocation for R&D and Regulatory Sandbox to Propel India's Leadership in 6G
- Letter to Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Shri P K Mishra for PMO Support needed for Innovation and Local Manufacturing
- Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India Request for IAFI's recommendation for Delicensing of Captive 5G networks under Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
- Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways Request for Industry consultation on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023
- Letter to Secretary, Ministry of Power Request for Implementing Green Open Access Rules for the Telecom Sector in States/UTs
- Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of MTCTE
- Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for Import of NGSO Satellite Devices under MTCTE

IAFI MEMBERSHIP

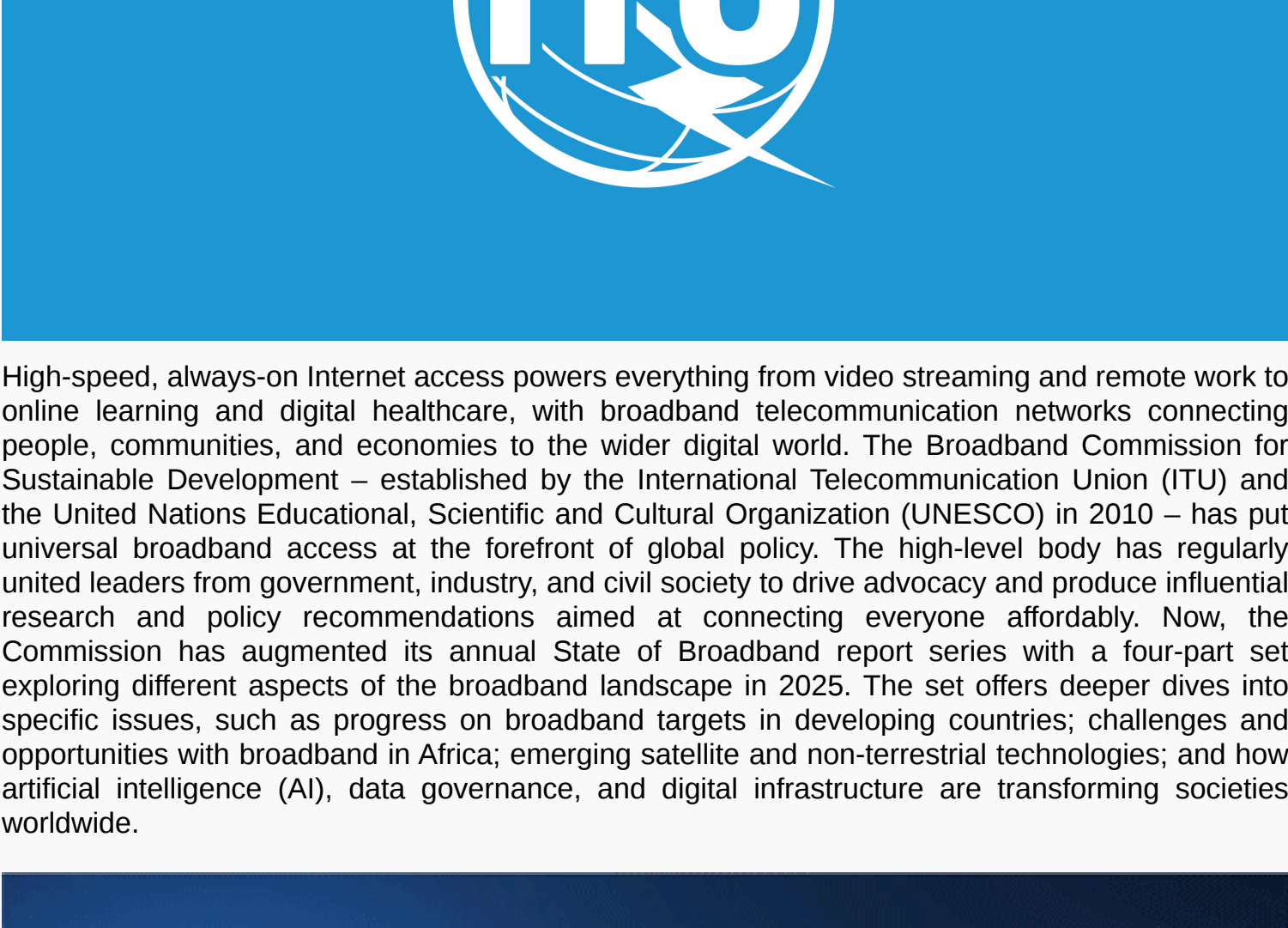
ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is a non-profit, non-political, non-partisan industry foundation registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1960. IAFI has been working for the last 22 years with the prime objective of encouraging the involvement of professionals, corporate, public/private sector industries, R&D organizations, academic institutions, and such other agencies engaged in the development of the Indian Telecom sector. The members of IAFI are corporate members are 29 and individuals are 150 making a total of 179 members. Besides, IAFI also emphasized on the Creation of a new member category for academia and a campaign to register Eminent educational institutes as members. The benefits provided to the members include an invitation to all the events of the Foundation which include: Training programs, seminars, workshops, etc. conducted by the society on a complimentary basis. Besides, IAFI Members will also have access to information related to ITU and APT and other telecom journals where members can subscribe. Members are further eligible to participate in ITU-T, ITU-D, and APT activities. The individual Membership Fee of IAFI has been reversed to the previous fee that was applicable since the beginning. Please click: [Membership details](#)



Partners Association



Activities in our focus areas during October to December 2025



High-speed, always-on Internet access powers everything from video streaming and remote work to online learning and digital healthcare, with broadband telecommunication networks connecting people, communities, and economies to the wider digital world. The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development – established by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010 – has put universal broadband access at the forefront of global policy. The high-level body has regularly united leaders from government, industry, and civil society to drive advocacy and produce influential research and policy recommendations aimed at connecting everyone affordably. Now, the Commission has augmented its annual State of Broadband report series with a four-part set exploring different aspects of broadband in 2025. The set offers deeper dives into specific issues, such as progress on broadband targets in developing countries; challenges and opportunities with broadband in Africa; emerging satellite and non-terrestrial technologies; and how artificial intelligence (AI), data governance, and digital infrastructure are transforming societies worldwide.



The World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25) was hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan in Baku from 17 to 28 November 2025, under the overarching theme: "Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future." The Conference brought together over 1,900 participants, including representatives from 160 ITU Member States, 104 ITU-D Sector Members, and several international and regional organizations. During the Conference, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) conducted ten (10) Coordination Meetings from 16 to 27 November 2025. These meetings reviewed the status of APT Common Proposals (ACPs) submitted to WTDC-25 and received progress updates from designated APT focal points. In addition to discussions on ACPs, the Coordination Meetings also considered proposals from other regions and addressed emerging subjects, including draft Resolutions related to Metaverse and Artificial Intelligence (AI)



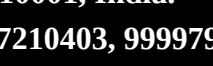
सत्यमेव जयते
Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in a press release announced transformative growth in India's digital infrastructure as of late 2025. These achievements underscore a decade of aggressive expansion in connectivity, particularly in rural sectors and next-generation mobile services. Internet connections crossed the milestone of 100 crore to reach 100.29 crore, as against 25.15 crore in March 2014, registering growth of 298.77%. Broadband connections rose from 6.1 crore in March 2014 to 99.56 crore in 2025, growing by 1,532.13%. Average monthly data consumption per wireless data subscriber increased by 389 times to 24.01 GB in 2025, up from 61.66 MB in 2014, one of the highest in the world. Overall tele-density in India rose to 86.65% in September 2025. Rural telephone connections grew 42.9%, nearly double of urban increase, rising from 3.7:78 million in March 2014 to 539.63 million in September 2025. 5G services rolled out in all States/ UTs across the country and are available in 96.9% of the districts the country with population coverage of 85%, 5.08 lakh 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) installed by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) across the country. DoT re-farmed 687 MHz of spectrum in various frequency bands viz. 6425-7025 MHz, 2500-2690 MHz and 1427-1518 MHz, for IMT based services.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
TRAI

On December 10, 2025, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released comprehensive recommendations aimed at overhauling the assignment and pricing of microwave spectrum. The spectrum is critical for "radio backhaul", the invisible infrastructure that connects mobile towers to the core network, especially as 5G expansion increases data demands. The recommendations cover spectrum in the 6 GHz (lower), 7 GHz, 13 GHz, 15 GHz, 18 GHz, and 21 GHz bands (Traditional Microwave Bands), as well as the high-frequency E-Band (71-761.86 GHz) and Vband (57-66 GHz). TRAI clarified that these bands must be used exclusively for radio backhaul and not for last-mile connectivity or Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) for customers. TRAI recommended an administrative process to prevent cost inflation and encourage rapid network expansion. The 7 GHz-band usage should be reviewed after WRC-2027. Until then, no new links should be assigned, though existing ones can be renewed. One of the most significant aspects is the "massive cut" in fees, with some operators potentially seeing up to a 55% reduction in backhaul costs. For telcos, TRAI recommended a flat charge of 0.1% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) per carrier. This replaces the current escalating matrix where charges increased progressively with each additional carrier. To simplify the process, no specific rollout obligations are attached to these backhaul assignments. These recommendations are viewed as a "holistic framework" to promote optimal spectrum utilization.

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