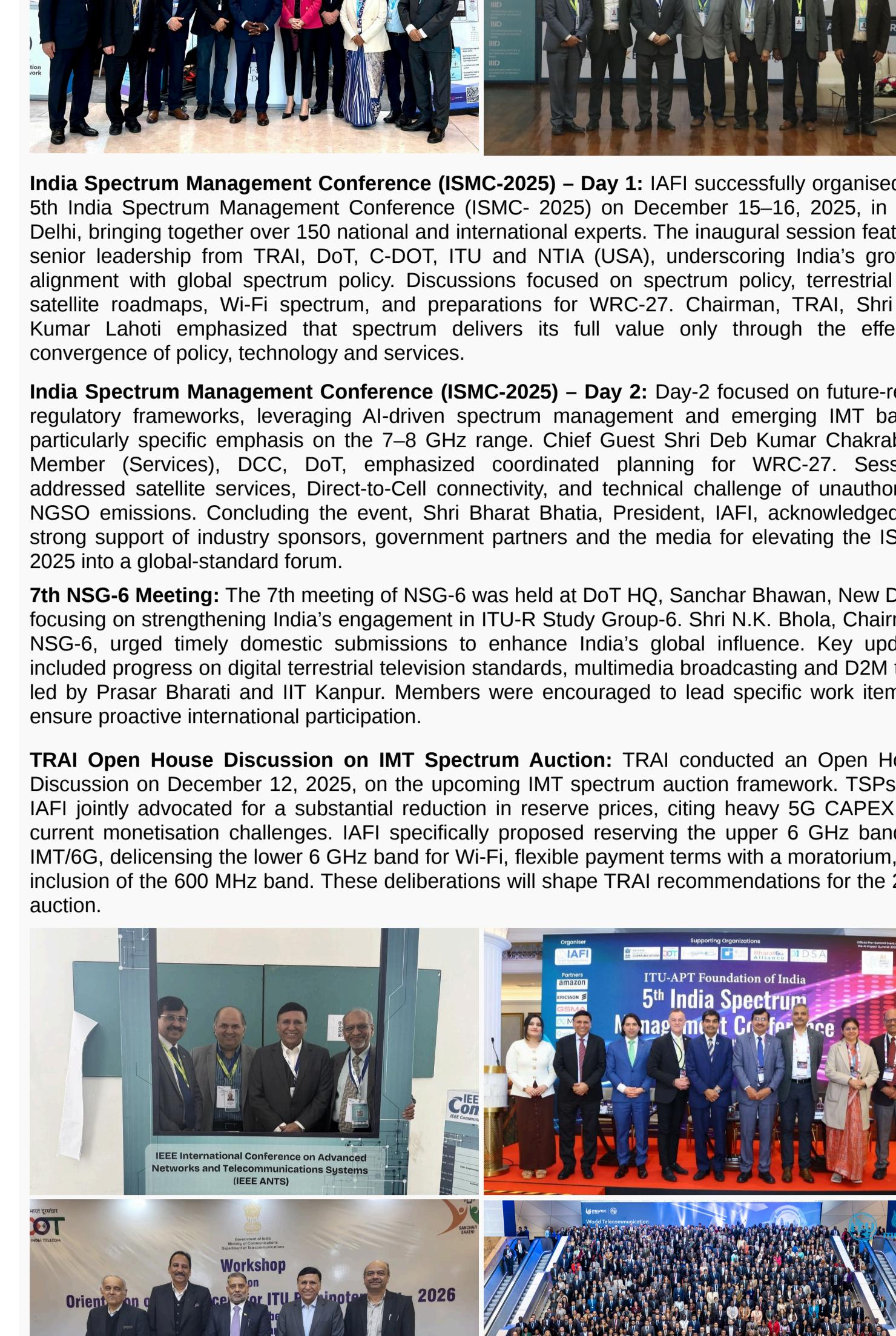


Quarter Highlights (October to December 2025)

Dear Respected Member,

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

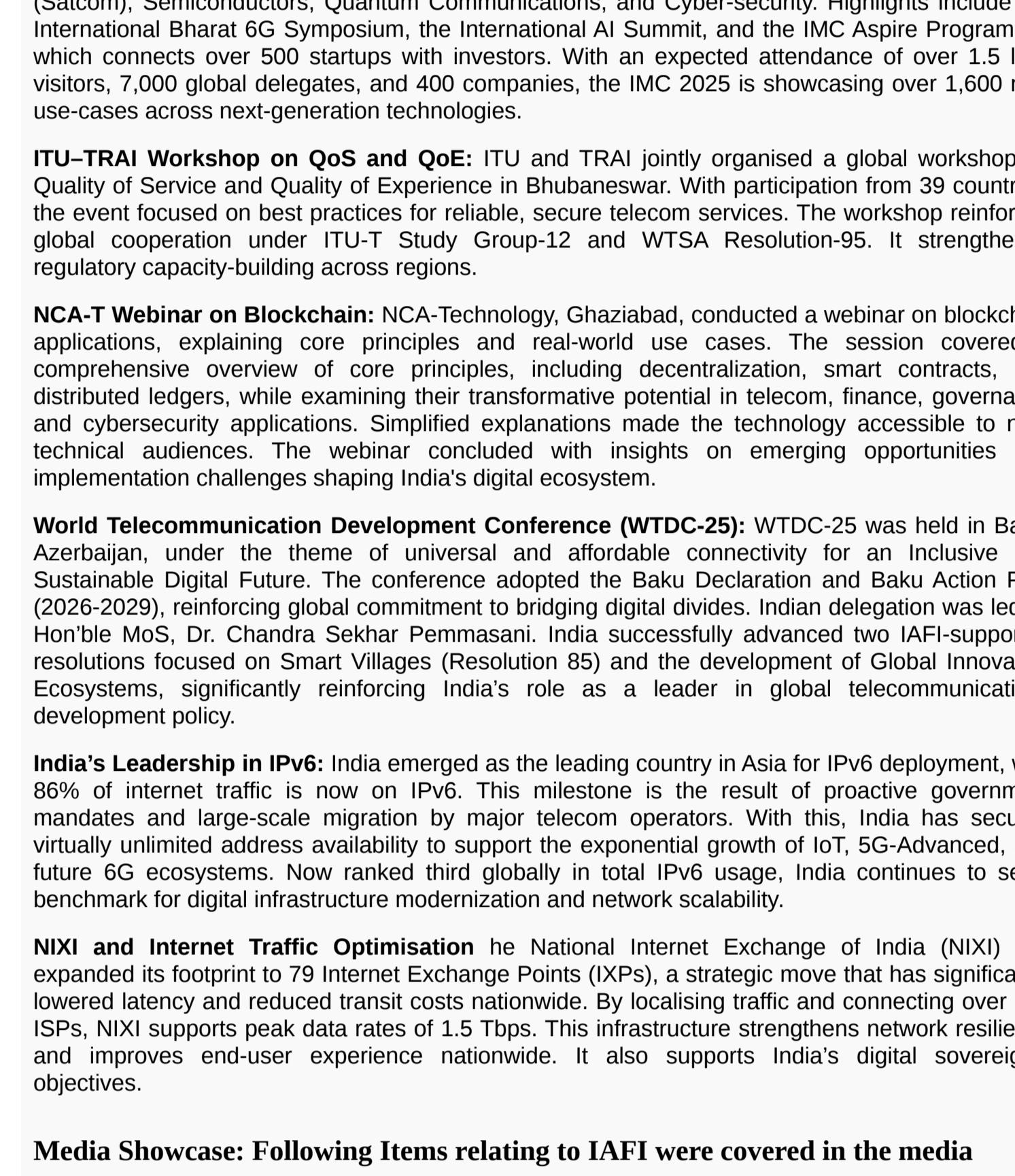


5th India Spectrum Management Conference (ISM-C-2025) – Day 1: IAFI successfully organised the 5th India Spectrum Management Conference (ISM-C-2025) on December 15–16, 2025, in New Delhi, India. The conference brought together over 150 national and international experts, including senior leadership from 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 (ISM-C-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 challenges of unauthorized NGSPS emissions. Concluding the event, Shri Bharat Bhata, President, IAFI, acknowledged the strong support of industry sponsors, government partners and the media for elevating the ISMC-2025 as a global event.

7th NSC-6 Meeting: The 7th meeting of NSC-6 was held at DoT HQ, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, focusing on strengthening India's position in ITU-R Study Group-6. Shri N.K. Phola, Chairman, NSC-6, urged timely 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 ITI, 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 14, 2025, to discuss IMT spectrum auction framework, TSPs and IAFI jointly advocated for a substantial reduction in reserve prices, bring heavy 5G CAPEX and current monetisation challenges. IAFI specifically proposed releasing the upper 6 GHz band for IMT-26, 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's 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 Pots, 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 Bhata, 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 TSDS.

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 leadership in IMT-26. Shri N.K. Phola, Chairman, NSC-6, and Mr. S. Venkateswaran, Director of the Telecommunications Sector, DoT, were present. The event stressed close government-industry collaboration is essential for a robust Indian presence at the conference. The workshop 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 India has become 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 BTBs. 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 Yashovihar Convention Center 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 transformation. The event, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, features several international and Indian exhibitors. Key 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 WTS-Resolution-95. It strengthened regulatory capacity-building across regions.

NTCA-T Webinar on Blockchain: NTCA-Technology, Ghaziabad, conducted a webinar on blockchain applications, explaining core principles and real-world use cases. The session covered 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 (2026-2029), reinforcing global commitment to bridging digital divides. Indian delegation was led by Hon'ble Dr. Chandr Sekhar Penumalai. India successfully advanced two IAFI-supported resolutions, one on Smart Villages (Resolution 85) and the development of Global Innovation Ecosystems, significantly reinforcing India's role as a leader in global telecommunications ecosystem policy.

India's Leadership in IPv6: India emerged as the leading country in Asia for IPv6 deployment, with 80% of its internet traffic now on IPv6. This milestone is the result of innovative 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.

NTCA and Internet Traffic Optimisation: The National Internet Exchange of India (NIIX) has been operational for over 10 years, connecting over 1000+ network points (NPs) and has significantly lowered latency and reduced transit costs nationwide. By localising traffic and connecting over 350 ISPs, NIIX 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



1. 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.

2. Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Governor of India, Shri Jayanti Bhattacharya, and DoT for Promoting delicensing "Maf in the 5925–6425 MHz band".

3. Letter to The Joint Secretary, DoT for Promoting delicensing "Maf in the 5925–6425 MHz band".

4. IAFI continues to champion India's leadership in telecom and ICT innovation worldwide. Its President, Mr. Bharat B. Bhata, 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 rural connectivity. Swift action is crucial to unlock innovation in AI, blockchain, and rural connectivity.

5. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) commands the Department of Telecommunications (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](#)

6. 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 WiFi/6E/7 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](#)

7. TRAI Chairman Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, speaking at ISPC-25 in New Delhi, highlighted the vital role of spectrum in driving India's digital divide and innovation. 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](#)

8. We are proud to share that Mr. Bharat B. Bhata, President of the ITU-APT FOUNDATION OF INDIA (IAFI), has been nominated as Chair of the Editorial Committee for the APT Conference Preparation Group-27 (APG-27), held in Baku, Azerbaijan. This prestigious nomination comes on the recommendation of the Heads of Delegation during the 2nd Meeting of APG27 (APG27-26), recognizing the role of Editorial Committee Chair as being equivalent to Vice Chair of the Plenary. The proposal, formally moved by [Read More](#)

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10. India's Ministry of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoT) is seeking a key solution for expanding connectivity in rural and remote regions, by laying fiber-optic networks like fiber or microwave. This will enable the sector to benefit from 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

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IAFI MEMBERSHIP

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