

IAFI News



India to delicense lower 6 GHz band unleashing massive Wi-Fi equipment & services opportunity



In a recent interview with Mr. Claus Hetting, CEO & Chairman, Wi-Fi NOW, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI and a leading advocate for the new regulations, lauded the Government of India's decision to allocate the lower 6 GHz band for unlicensed operation. This landmark move is set to unleash significantly improved connectivity for an estimated 150 million Indian homes and businesses within the next few years. India, the world's second most populous nation, is now poised to become the largest 6 GHz Wi-Fi market globally, with hundreds of millions of 6 GHz Wi-Fi routers and client devices expected to be deployed. Shri Bhatia emphasized that this decision represents an "enormous victory for connectivity in India." He highlighted India's unique high-density usage conditions, where user numbers per square meter often far exceed those in regions like Europe or the USA. The new 6 GHz band, he explained, will be crucial in delivering reliable Wi-Fi connectivity in such demanding environments. Furthermore, this opens up a substantial opportunity for both Indian businesses and overseas suppliers to provide 6 GHz equipment to millions of locations. He also credited the "Broadband India Forum" for their significant contribution to this positive outcome. <https://wifinowglobal.com/news-blog/india-delicenses-lower-6-ghz-band-unleashes-massive-wi-fi-equipment-services-opportunity/>

TRAI Consultation on Assignment of Microwave Spectrum



The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper on May 28, 2025, inviting written comments from the stakeholders on the "Assignment of the Microwave Spectrum in 6 GHz (lower), 7 GHz, 13 GHz, 15 GHz, 18 GHz, 21 GHz Bands, E-Band, and V-Band", by June 25, 2025. This new consultation follows an earlier consultation paper issued by TRAI on September 27, 2023, concerning spectrum assignment in E&V Bands and Microwave Access (MWA) and Microwave Backbone (MWB) bands. Recommendations regarding the previous paper were put on hold due to the enactment of the new Telecommunication Act, 2023 by Indian Parliament. Consequently, TRAI referred the matter back to the DoT on February 20, 2024. DoT's current request to TRAI specifically seeks recommendations on:

- Spectrum charges and related terms for assigning spectrum in the 6 GHz (lower), 7 GHz, 13 GHz, 15 GHz, 18 GHz, and 21 GHz bands for backhaul in commercial telecom services.
- A review of the 7 GHz and 15 GHz bands, considering their potential use for Access using IMT after WRC-27.
- Demand assessment and scope of service/ usage for (i) 57-64/ 66 GHz (V-band) and (ii) 71-76 GHz/ 81-86 GHz (E-band).
- The quantum and specific bands to be earmarked for last-mile connectivity in both commercial and non-commercial/captive telecom services.

IAFI leads Global Effort to tackle Unauthorized non-GSO Satellite Earth Stations



ET Telecom in its edition dated 26th May, 2025 reported that during the ITU-R Working Parties 4A and 4C meeting at Shanghai, China, IAFI presented a detailed proposal to address unauthorized non- GSO earth station operations within the fixed-satellite service (FSS) and mobile-satellite service (MSS) segments. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI presented a comprehensive proposal on behalf of India and received strong support from participating member states and marked a significant step in global regulatory discussions ahead of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2027. The issue was also highlighted by Communication Today in its May 27, 2025 edition, which reported that IAFI took a leading role in representing India, in the WP-4A and 4C meeting, recently held at Shanghai, China. The proposals presented by Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI received strong supports from participating members, signaling a major advancement in global regulatory efforts.

<https://telecom.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/news/portal-in-portal/satcom/indias-bold-move-to-regulate-unauthorised-non-gso-satellite-activities-amid-space-sector-growth/121409308>

TRAI released Telecom Subscription Data as on 30th April, 2025



TRAI released Telecom Subscription Data as on 30th April, 2025. As per the TRAI report –

- a. Total Telephone Subscriber has crossed 1200 million marks and now reached to 1204 million.
- b. Total Broadband Subscribers has crossed 900 million marks and reached to 943 million.
- c. Total 5G FWA Subscribers has reached to 7.50 million.
- d. Total M2M Cellular Mobile Connection has reached to 70 million with Bharti Airtel share more than 53%.
- e. Quarterly Telecom Revenue QE- Dec, 2024 has reached to Rs 96,390 crore and Annual Telecom Revenue 2024-25 may reach to Rs 3,80,000/- crore.

TRAI Consultation Paper

Consultation Paper	Submission Dates	Status
Assignment of the Microwave Spectrum in 6 GHz (lower), 7 GHz, 13 GHz, 15 GHz, 18 GHz, 21 GHz Bands, E-Band, and V-Band	25th June 2025	Under Development

DoT Consultation Paper

Consultation Paper	Submission Dates	Status
De-licensing of Lower 6 GHz spectrum for the use of Low Power and Very Low Power Wireless Access System including Radio Local Area Network	15th June 2025	Under Development

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R: Working Parties 3J, 3K, 3L and 3M	26th May - 05th June 2025	14th May 2025
ITU-R: Working Parties 1A, 1B and 1C	09th - 18th June 2025	29th May 2025
ITU-R: WP 5D	24th June - 03rd July 2025	12th June 2025
APT: The 25th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-25)	01st - 03rd July 2025	22nd June 2025
APT: The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-4)	14th - 18th July 2025	04th July 2025
APT: The 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for PP-26 (APT PP26-1)	18th July 2025	08th July 2025
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2)	28th July - 01st Aug 2025	18th July 2025

Telecom Stories:



India is poised to become the "data capital of the world" in the coming years, said Union Minister of Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia. A major factor underpinning this growth is the drastic reduction in communication costs. The Minister noted that the price of one GB of data has fallen from 287 rupees just 11 years ago to just 9 rupees today, representing a 97% reduction in costs per communication. Comparing this internationally, Scindia said that India's data cost of 11 cents per GB is only 5% of the world average of \$2.5 per GB.

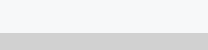


DoT has approached TRAI seeking recommendations on reserve price, block size, quantum and other modalities for auction of mobile spectrum in eight existing bands, including 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1,800 MHz, 2,100 MHz and 2,300 MHz, according to sources. Other bands where TRAI's views have been sought by the Department of Telecom (DoT) include 2,500 MHz, 3,300 MHz and 2.6GHz bands. DoT has also urged the telecom regulator to offer fresh recommendations for auction of spectrum in 600 MHz bands. TRAI has also been asked to look at the possibility of auction for newly identified 6,425-6,725 MHz and 7,025-7,125 MHz bands for recommendations on auction timing, band plan, reserve price, and terms and conditions.



In an effort to increase patent filings from India and establish dominance in specific segments, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) plans to collaborate with industry and academia to identify key technological niches for its 6G research, officials said. The move is crucial for the Centre's plan for India to contribute at least 10 per cent of global patent filings by 2030. While India has become the sixth-largest patent filer in October last year, the sector remains dominated by China and the US.

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