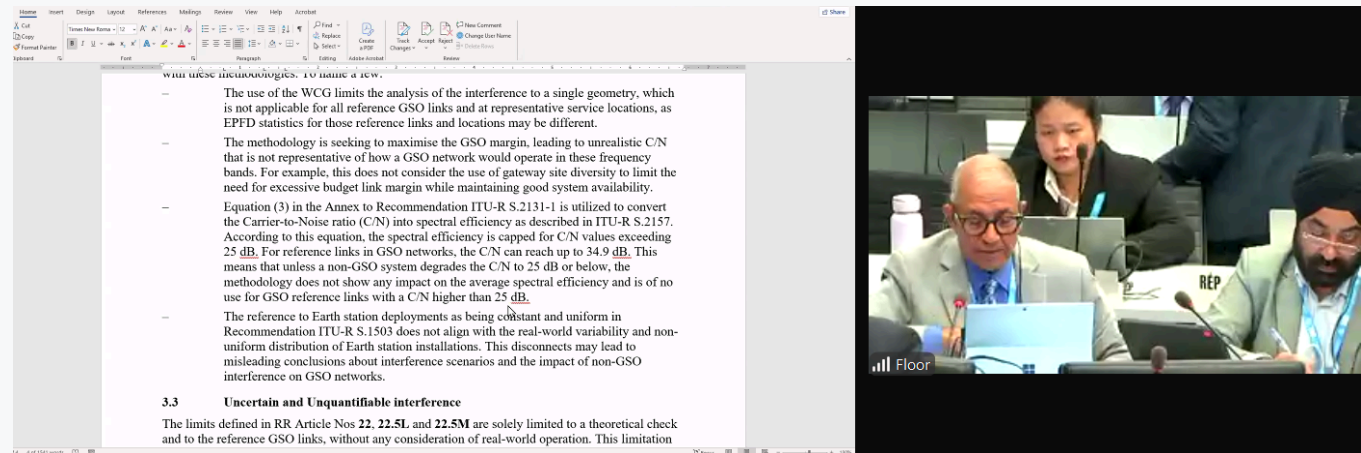


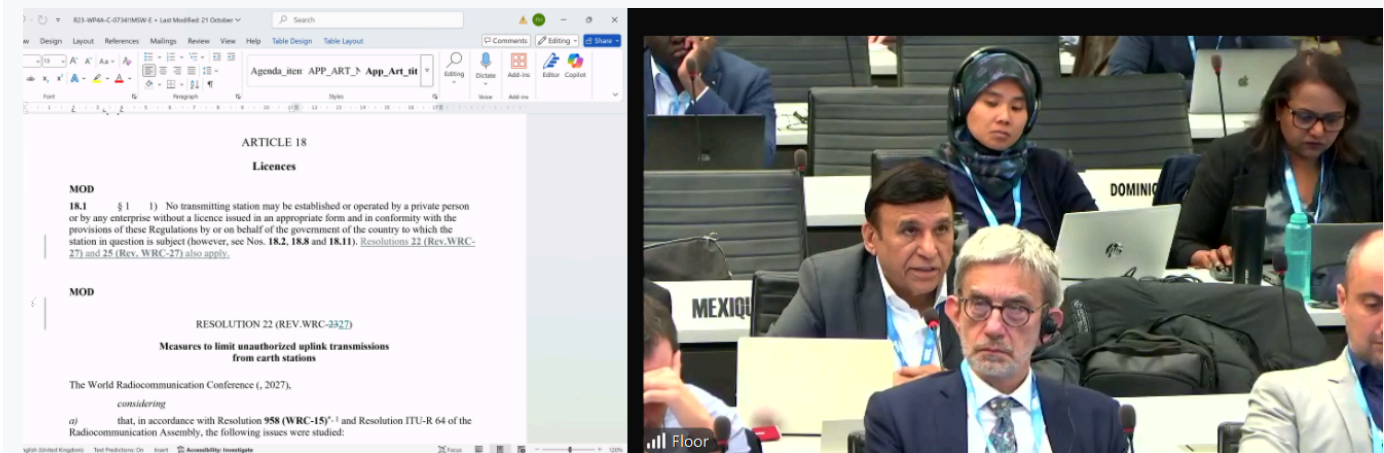
IAFI News

Working Party - 4B Meeting



The 57th Meeting of the Working Party -4B (WP-4B) was held from 22nd October to 28th Oct, 2025 at Geneva, Switzerland in hybrid mode. Many IAFI members joined the meeting virtually. WP-4B deals with - systems, air interfaces, performance and availability objectives for the fixed-satellite service (FSS), broadcasting- satellite service (BSS) and mobile-satellite service (MSS), including IP- based applications and satellite news gathering (SNG) etc. Total 48 documents were considered by the meeting. Work of the WP-4B was divided in four sub Working Groups, SWG 4B1 to SWG4B4. IAFI presented one document C-167 in the SWG4B3 meeting regarding “Solution for remote sparsely populated areas with broadband and large coverage”. Document was discussed in details and many members raised the issued regarding the documents includes the work of WP-4A also. Finally, it was decided that IAFI will submit the revised document in the next meeting. Meeting finalized for the revision of the two ITU-R Recommendations, BO-789-2 regarding “Service for digital sound broadcasting to vehicular-portable and fixed receivers for BSS (sound) in the frequency range 1 400-2 700 MHz and BO-1130-4 regarding “Systems for digital satellite broadcasting to vehicular, portable and fixed receivers in the bands allocated to BSS (sound) in the frequency range 1 400-2 700 MHz”. The next meeting of the WP-4B will be held from 29-04-2026 to 05-05-2026.

Working Party – 4A Meeting



The 57th Meeting of ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP 4A), commenced on October 27, 2025, and is scheduled to run through November 6, 2025. WP-4A deals with the efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for the Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS) and Broadcasting-Satellite Service (BSS). Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI joined the meeting physically on behalf of Indian delegation along with many other IAFI members joined virtually. Meeting has to discuss 258 documents, a record number since formation of WP-4A. The meeting focused heavily on preparatory work for the WRC. WRC Agenda Item 1.2 (Small Earth Station Antennas), concerning the regulatory provisions for small earth station antennas operating in the 13.75-14.0 GHz frequency band, garnered the highest level of engagement, drawing 30 dedicated contributions. It highlights the industry's critical need for clear, harmonized international rules to support the widespread deployment of ubiquitous, small-terminal satellite systems. Similarly, Agenda Item – 1.5 regarding unauthorized non-GSO FSS/MSS uplink operations, is drawing maximum attention of members, due to its importance in maintaining the integrity and compliance of satellite operations. In addition, Agenda Item -1.1, 1.3, 1.4 and 7 have been discussed and deliberated at length. The meeting featured extensive deliberation on numerous preparatory agenda items for the upcoming WRC, reflecting a heightened focus on future satellite operations and spectrum sharing.

IAFI's Recommendations on TRAI's Consultation Paper on IMT Spectrum Auction



The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) submitted its consolidated views to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in response to the Consultation Paper released on September 30, 2025, regarding the auction of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) spectrum. IAFI's core argument is that the current, revenue-focused spectrum auction model is obsolete and hinders digital growth, as evidenced by the significant unsold spectrum inventory in recent sales. To foster innovation and equitable access, IAFI advocates for a complete policy regarding “Auction Reform”, implementing a zero reserve price for all frequency bands and transitioning from the Simultaneous Multiple Round Auction (SMRA) to the more flexible Combinatorial Clock Auction (CCA) format. This treats spectrum as a public enabler of growth, not a short-term fiscal asset. Similarly, regarding inclusion of 600 MHz, suggested for inclusion of the globally harmonized APT 600 MHz band (n105) to ensure cost-effective 5G coverage, improve rural connectivity, and enhance in-building penetration, as ecosystem challenges have now been resolved. In addition, IAFI supported the future allocation of the Upper 6 GHz band for India's 6G vision but strongly recommending delaying its auction until after WRC-27 to achieve global alignment, prevent fragmentation, and enable optimal contiguous planning for future ultra-broadband needs and proposed for the use of the L Band (1427–1518 MHz) as a crucial resource for Supplemental Uplink (SUL). Its superior propagation characteristics are necessary to enhance indoor coverage and ensure reliable uplink connectivity in 5G networks.

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is now on Wikipedia



The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has now been recognised by the Wikipedia by creating a page of IAFI on the Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ITU-APT_Foundation_of_India , reflecting its active role in India's telecommunications policy landscape. The page on Wikipedia was successfully launched with strong support from Shri R K Mishra, Vice-President,

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R: Working Party 4A (WP 4A)	27th Oct - 06th nov 2025	15th Oct 2025
APT: The 26th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-26)	05th - 07th Nov 2025	06th Oct 2025
ITU-R: 1st Inter-regional Information Session on WRC-27 Preparation	03rd - 05th Dec 2025	21st Nov 2025
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026	28th - 29th Jan 2026	18th Jan 2026

Telecom Stories:



Union Ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia and Dr. Pemmasani expressed optimism for BSNL after the company achieved 93% of its ambitious Q2 FY26 revenue target—₹5,347 crore—marking steady progress in its turnaround journey. Their leadership and strategic review highlight renewed confidence, as BSNL posted a 12% rise in ARPU and sustained two consecutive quarters of profit for the first time in 18 years. This positive momentum is driven further by a focus on service quality and efficiency.

Details

Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, chaired the Quarter 2 (2025–26) Strategic Review and Planning Meet of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in New Delhi, today. Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasanai, Secretary (Telecommunications) Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Additional Secretary, Gulzar Natarajan and senior officials of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), and BSNL's Chief General Managers (CGMs) from across the country, were present at the occasion.



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing to launch its CMS-03 communication satellite aboard the LVM3 rocket on November 2, 2025. The mission, designated LVM3-M5, will be the fifth operational flight of India's heavy-lift launch vehicle.

Heaviest communication satellite from Indian soil

According to ISRO, CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite that will provide services over a wide oceanic region, including the Indian landmass. Weighing about 4,400 kilograms, it will be the heaviest communication satellite to be launched to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from Indian soil.

The LVM3 launch vehicle has been fully assembled and integrated with the spacecraft and was moved to the launch pad on October 26, 2025, for final pre-launch operations.



Starlink has started hiring in India following its recent approval to launch satellite internet services in the country. The company, owned by Elon Musk, received the government's Unified License and is currently conducting technical and security demonstrations in Mumbai as part of compliance with local regulations ahead of its commercial rollout.

Starlink is now seeking candidates for various roles as it establishes formal operations, including setting up an office in Mumbai and preparing multiple gateway stations across India. The recruitment drive comes as the company finalizes local infrastructure in anticipation of service launch, expected after regulatory and spectrum clearances are complete.

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