IAFI News

WEEK IN BRIEF

TEC organized its first meeting of the National Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (NWG-AI)
The 53rd ITU-R WP-5D meeting commenced in Geneva, with IAFI submitting seven contributions
WPC Wing of DoT organized 17th Meeting of National Working Group (NWG)-4A1
Draft IAFI contribution on Agenda 1.5 approved by National Study Group (NSG) -4
ITU-D Workshop on Universal and meaningful digital connectivity

First meeting of the National Working Group on Artificial Intelligence



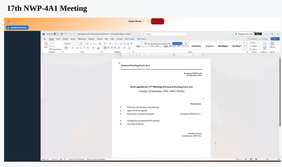
The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the nodal agency of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, responsible for finalizing and submitting contributions to ITU- T Study Groups, constituted the National Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (NWG-AI) vide an Office Memorandum (OM) dated 17-07-2026. The group was established for the 2025–2028 study period and involves stakeholders from industry, academia, TEMA, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), as well as officers from BSNL, TEC, DoT, and C-DoT. The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is also a participating member. The first virtual meeting of the NWG-AI was held on 30-09-2026 under the Chairmanship of Shri Devendra Singh, DDG (C&B), TEC. During this introductory session, attending IAFI members suggested adopting the topic "Role of AI on Digital Public Infrastructure."

The 53rd meeting of the Working Party-5D



The 53rd meeting of ITU-R Working Party 5D (WP 5D) is currently taking place in a hybrid format in Geneva, Switzerland, scheduled from September 28 to October 8, 2026. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of IAFI, along with Mr. Jitendra Singh, Vice Chairman, Mr. Senthil Kumar Dewar, EC member many other IAFI members are attending the session in person, supplemented by a virtual presence.
The meeting received a total of 150 contributions. A major priority of this session is finalizing the draft CPM (Conference Preparatory Meeting) Report for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27). Discussions heavily centered around WRC-27 Agenda Items (AI) 1.7, and 1.13. Specifically, AI 1.7 (concerning potential IMT allocations) attracted 53 new contributions, while AI 1.13 (direct connectivity/DC-IMT-MSS) received 28. To complete the substantial workload and ensure steady progress on the regulatory drafts, the committee extended daily sessions and worked during the weekend.

17th NWP-4A1 Meeting



17th National Working Party (NWP)-4A1 meeting was held in online mode on 29.09.2026, to discuss inputs contributions received by NWP-4A1 from various stakeholders on various agenda items (AI 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4) questions covered under scope of NWP-4A1. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI joined the meeting from Geneva, Switzerland and many other IAFI members joined also joined virtually. Reliance Jio submitted a proposal regarding to review the regulatory framework with the objective of enabling NGSO FSS gateway operations in 51.4 -52.4 GHz Earth-to-Space frequency band, supporting the use of gateway earth stations communicating with non-GSO FSS satellite in the 51.4-52.4 GHz band under Agenda Item 1.3 of WRC-27. Contribution was discussed and it was decided not to submit the proposal in the upcoming WP-4A meeting.

21st Meeting of National Study Group 4



The 21st meeting of NSG-4 was held on 2nd October to consider one document submitted by National Working Party 4A-2 for India's contributions to the 59th meeting of Working Party 4A of ITU-R SG4 scheduled w.e.f. 19- 29 October 2026 at Geneva. The meeting was chaired by Ms. M. Revathi, Joint Wireless Adviser. The meeting considered one input proposing updates to the Draft CPM text on AI 1.5 of WRC-27 which was originally submitted by the IAFI. These updates were discussed in the meeting amongst the NSG-4 members and were approved with a few editorials. Chair NWP 4A-1, Dr Manish Saxena, Director Satcom-PO, ISRO requested the guidance of the Chair NSG-4 on Agenda Item 1.3 of WRC-27. He stated that earlier India supported epfd methodology in ITU-R WP4A meetings to satisfy this agenda item. However, during APG 27-3 meeting, India did not support this methodology. In response, Chair NSG-4 proposed to schedule a meeting of NSG-4 before the start of the ITU WP4A meeting to discuss and finalize India's stand on the epfd framework vis-à-vis agenda item 1.3 of WRC-27. This was also approved by the NSG-4 members.

ITU-D Workshop on Universal and meaningful digital connectivity



ITU-D Study Group 1 organized a workshop on September 28, 2026, during the Rapporteur Group Meeting for Question 1/1, focusing on "Enabling policies and strategies for universal connectivity with a focus on underserved, remote, and rural areas." The theme of the event was "Enabling Environment for Universal and Meaningful Digital Connectivity."
During the workshop, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of IAFI, delivered a presentation titled "Universal and Meaningful Connectivity: From Evidence to Policy Action," highlighting the need for an integrated approach that combines terrestrial 6G networks with non-terrestrial and satellite technologies to bridge the remaining digital divide. He emphasized that spectrum decisions at WRC-27 will be critical in enabling both future IMT networks and non-terrestrial networks. Because spectrum allocations for 6G and non-terrestrial networks are complementary parts of the same objective, he concluded that technology, spectrum, and policy must evolve in tandem to make universal and meaningful connectivity a reality.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R: Working Party 5D (WP 5D) - IMT Systems	28th September - 08th October 2026	16th September 2026
ITU-R: Study Group 6 (SG 6) - Broadcasting Service	02nd October 2026	20th September 2026
TU-R: Working Party 4C (WP 4C)	12th - 16th October 2026	25th September 2026
ITU-R: Working Party 4B (WP 4B)	14th - 20th October 2026	02nd October 2026
ITU-R: Working Party 4A (WP 4A)	19th - 29th October 2026	07th October 2026
APT: The 27th Meeting of South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-27)	20th - 22nd October 2026	10th October 2026

Telecom Stories:



India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026, Asia's largest digital technology forum will put DeepTech and frontier innovation at the foundation of its startup agenda, with its flagship startup platform ASPIRE, focused on helping emerging companies move from prototypes towards market opportunities, investment and scale. At its landmark 10th edition, IMC will bring together startups, investors, industry leaders and ecosystem enablers, and deliver a unique value centered around DeepTech innovation, market access, investor-startup engagement and guided investor tours. Organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), IMC 2026 will be held from 7–10 October at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi.



Telecom regulator Trai has asked mobile service providers to prominently display mandatory recharge plans and special tariff vouchers on their websites, mobile apps and exclusive points of sale, according to an official order published on Thursday.
The direction came after consumer complaints, and the regulator verified that the telecom operators had placed plans on their websites and apps in a manner that they were not easily visible.



The Centre is moving to build a pool of government-controlled artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem by adding 10000 GPUs of computing capacity, sources have said.
The government is working with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to install 3,000 GPUs of computing capacity, while also finalising an agreement with the UAE under which an 8-exaflop AI supercomputer, equivalent to about 10,000 GPUs of computing capacity, will be deployed in India.

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