

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

The Telecommunications Act, 2023:



Legislative Department of Ministry of Law and Justice issued Gazette Notification to publish The Telecommunications Act, 2023 for general information, as the Hon'ble President of India assented it on 24-12-2023. Department of Telecommunications also published the same through DoT website on 01-01-2024.

There is no specific date mentioned in the Act for its commencement, leaving its effective date unclear. As per the Section-1(3) of the Act, it shall come into force, from the date, when Central Government will issue separate notification for commencement of provision/s or different dates for different provisions.

So, till time, old Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 is still in force.

New Indian Telecommunications Rules under the Telecommunications Act of 2023:



Though still in force, the Indian Telegraph Rules were established in 1951, and needs thorough update since long. Now after The Telecommunication Act, 2023, various wing in DoT has started massive exercise to frame the new Telecom Rules. Provisioned in the era of telegrams, trunk calls and landlines, many of its provisions are already irrelevant due advancement in telecom like mobile internet and broadband etc. While few amendments like those for Interception and USOF were attempted to bridge the gap, a comprehensive overhaul is now very much necessary to reflect the dynamic landscape of today's communication technologies.

With the notification of the new Act, the three old laws — the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950, have been repealed. It means that virtually every rule governing the telecom sector needs to be defined afresh.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is currently crafting over 30 key telecom rules under the newly enacted Telecommunications Act. These regulations, to be rolled out in the coming months, will shape the landscape of India's telecom sector.

The upcoming telecom rules promise extensive reforms, from setting prices for satellite spectrum allocation to establishing legal call interception methods for carriers. They will also address trading, sharing, and surrendering of spectrum, collection of biometric data (KYC) and many more. Significant reshaping of India's telecom landscape will be achieved, once these rules are implemented.

The DoT has yet to take a call on doing stakeholder consultations on the proposed new telecom rules.

First National Preparatory Workshop for WTSA-24:



IAFI collaborating closely with TEC, in shaping for more than 20 Resolutions, likely to be presented in the upcoming mega event, WTSA-24. IAFI along with TEC has planned for a full-day workshop, the First National Preparatory Workshop for WTSA-24, on 10 th January, 2024, at CSOI, KG Marg, New Delhi. This crucial event is arranged to unite stakeholders, refine strategies, and propel India's participation to new heights at the upcoming global telecommunications forum.

Workshop will be attended by very senior officers from DoT viz Member (Technology), Member (Finance), DG (Telecom), Sr DDG (TEC) and many DDG level officers from DoT and TEC and senior level officers from many stakeholders. Main aim of the workshop is to finalize contributions from India for the forthcoming APT Preparatory Group meeting for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA-24-2), likely to be held from 05 th to 06 th February, 2024.

Recognizing the pivotal role WTSA-24 going to play in shaping the future of telecommunications, Mr. Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, has pledged IAFI's full and unwavering support to TEC/DoT, with proactive engagement, ensuring India's voice is heard loud and clear on this global stage. This collaborative effort promises to secure India's rightful place at the forefront of shaping the future of connectivity.

TRAI Consultation Papers

Consultation Papers	Submission Dates	status	Submission
Digital Transformation through 5G Ecosystem	22nd Jan 2023	Under Development	-

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI preparatory Meetings
ITU-T: ITU Focus Group on Autonomous Networks (FG-AN)	18th Jan 2024	11th Jan 2024	-
ITU-T: First Inter-regional Meeting for WTSA-24 Preparation	18th Jan 2024	11th Jan 2024	-
ITU-R: Working Party 4B (WP 4B)	23rd Jan 2024	16th Jan 2024	-
ITU-T Third meeting of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG)	22nd Jan - 26th Jan 2024	15th Jan 2024	-
ITU-R: Forty-fifth meeting of Working Party 5D	31st Jan - 7th Feb 2024	24th Jan 2024	12th Jan 2024
APT: The 32nd Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-32)	04th Mar - 8th Mar 2024	26th Feb 2024	-

Telecom Stories:



Officials told ET that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is carrying out predictive analysis based on the number of people who would come for the consecration ceremony on January 22, to tell telcos how many more mobile sites are needed and which technology-2G, 4G or 5G-should be on offer.

NEW DELHI: The telecom department is using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to help telecom operators provide seamless connectivity experience during the inauguration of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya later this month. Officials told ET that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is carrying out predictive analysis based on the number of people who would come for the consecration ceremony on January 22, to tell telcos how many more mobile sites are needed and which technology-2G, 4G or 5G-should be on offer.



The government will focus on the existing PLI schemes for 14 sectors and for the time being is not considering to include new sectors like toys in the programme, a top official in said on Thursday. Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Rajesh Kumar Singh said the Production-Linked Incentive scheme for 14 sectors such as pharma, white goods, and electronics are doing good. 'Currently we are focused on getting these 14 PLIs. All are up and running in a good way. So for the time being, the new PLIs are not being considered and we will focus on ensuring that these existing schemes get implemented well and thereafter we will see, Singh told reporters here.



After several Indians received calls from an international number threatening to target the BSE and the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) conducted an investigation. Based on its findings, the DoT has urged the Ministry of Finance and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to prioritise and strengthen cybersecurity measures at both stock exchanges, according sources. The DoT has also directed international long distance operators to block incoming calls from the concerned international number.

Follow us on:-   

ITU-APT Foundation Of India 504, Fifth Floor World Trade Center (Behind Lalit Hotel) Barakhamba Road New Delhi- 110001, India.

Contact No.: +91-11-45005163, 7017210403, 9999797700

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