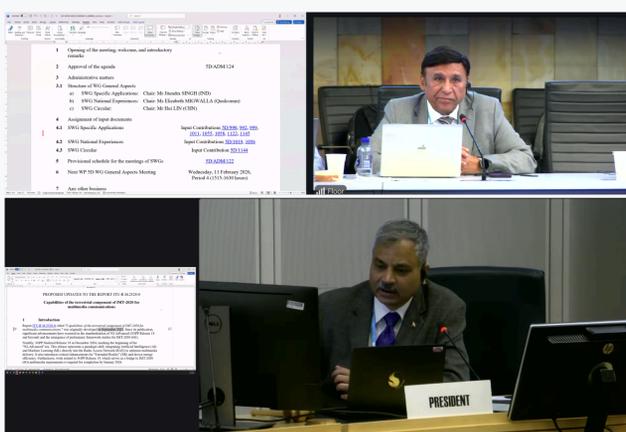# IAFI News

51st ITU-R Working Party-5D Meeting

The 51st meeting of the ITU-R Working Party 5D (WP 5D) commenced on February 3, 2026, and will continue until February 12, 2026. Held in a hybrid mode at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, the meeting has drawn hundreds of delegates from national administrations, equipment manufacturers, and academic institutions. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI; Shri Jitendra Singh, Head of Government Affairs, Qualcomm and Vice-President, IAFI; Shri Puneet Rathore, Lead Technical Standards, Qualcomm India; and Shri Sendil Kumar Devar, Director Standards and Spectrum, Ericsson India, joined the meeting physically, while many other IAFI members joined virtually. The meeting opened with a plenary session on February 3, 2026. The WP 5D Chairman highlighted the intensive schedule ahead, noting that nearly 200 input contributions have been received for discussion. IAFI submitted five contributions to this meeting, while the Indian Administration submitted six.

One of the focus areas of this meeting is finalizing the "Technical Performance Requirements" for IMT-2030, which will set essential benchmarks, such as peak data rates, latency, and connection density, that candidate radio interface technologies must meet. The group is also defining new capabilities distinct from 5G, including the deep integration of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML), Integrated Sensing and Communication (ISAC), and specific sustainability metrics. Concurrently, work is progressing on the "Evaluation Criteria and Methodology," a framework for testing and validating these future technologies. Delegates have also been reviewing studies on the coexistence of IMT (mobile) with incumbent services, particularly the Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) and Earth Exploration-Satellite Service (EESS).

SG3RG-AO Meeting

Meeting of the regional group of the SG-3 of ITU-T i.e. SG3RG-AO will be held on 10th February, 2026 in virtual mode (0900-1200 CET). IAFI submitted two contributions, one regarding the migration to IPv6 and other about DSTR_LAN. Last meeting of the SG3RG-AO was held from 10 - 12 Sept 2025 at National Communications Academy - Finance (NCA-F), New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Shri S.K. Mishra.

DoT and TRAI widespread action to curb SPAM Call and SMS

Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, addressed the issue of curbing widespread spam calls and SMS, in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. Highlighting the scale of the challenge, he informed the House that in December 2025 alone, 2,77,551 complaints were received against Unregistered Telemarketers (UTMs) and 56,766 against Registered Telemarketers (RTMs). Despite this volume, the Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) system successfully blocked an average of over 7.5 crore SMS and voice calls per day based on customer preferences. It was observed that the majority of Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) originates from UTMs using standard 10-digit numbers to bypass the DLT platform. To counter this, major Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have implemented AI-based solutions to detect suspected spam. On the regulatory front, over 3 lakh senders and 21,000 telemarketers have registered on the DLT platform as per TRAI's mandate. TRAI has strictly enforced the use of the '140' series for promotional calls and registered headers for commercial SMS. Additionally, to aid consumers in distinguishing legitimate financial communications, a distinct '1600' series has been prescribed for service and transactional calls. Furthermore, strict directives were issued on August 13, 2024, requiring TSPs to disconnect all telecom resources of UTMs found making commercial calls in violation of TCCCPR regulations.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU: ITU-T SG3 Regional Group for Asia and Oceania (SG3RG-AO)	10th Feb 2026	28th Jan 2026
ITU: Working Party 5D (WP 5D) - IMT Systems	03rd Feb - 12th Feb 2026	22nd Jan 2026
ITU: Collaboration on ITS Communication Standards	16th March 2026	03rd March 2026
APT: The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026	30th March - 2nd April 2026	20th March 2026
APT: The 36th Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-36)	06th - 19th April 2026	28th Mar 2026
APT: The 38th APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-38)	20th - 24th April 2026	20th April 2026

Telecom Stories:

The Government is committed to providing telecom services across all parts of the country while ensuring high service quality. Service performance is objectively assessed against the Quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks mandated by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Recently, TRAI has revised these QoS benchmarks, making them more stringent and implementing a glide path to align with global standards. The benchmarks comprise specific performance parameters, including call drop rate, packet loss, and service downtime. Data for these metrics is systematically collected from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), and detailed compliance reports are published in the public domain on a monthly basis.

The Government has been actively supporting creation of conducive ecosystem for innovators, entrepreneurs and startups through its various schemes and initiatives across the country.

The Government has launched the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) scheme to support cutting edge technology, deep-tech projects and startups. The main objectives of the RDI scheme are to encourage the private sector to scale up research, development and innovation (RDI), finance transformative projects, support acquisition of technologies which are critical or of high strategic importance and facilitate setting up of Deep-Tech Fund of Funds. The scheme is led by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) as the nodal department. With an outlay of Rs. 1 lakh crore in next 6 years, the RDI scheme focuses on sunrise sectors including energy security and transition, and climate action; deep-technology including quantum computing, robotics and space; artificial intelligence and its application in agriculture, health and education; biotechnology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, pharma, medical devices; and digital economy including digital agriculture.

Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development Dr Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today said that 5G services have been rolled out in all States/ UTs across the country and presently it is available in 99.9% of the districts in the country. As on 31.12.2025, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have installed 5.18 Lakhs 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) across the country, State-wise count of number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) installed by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) as on 31.12.2025 is placed at Annexure-I.