

IAFI News

India to Submit 6 sharing studies to ITU to support spectrum for 6G



IAFI team lead by Shri Bharat Bhatia attended the 12th meeting of the National Study Group 5 (NSG5), corresponding to ITU-R SG-5 on Saturday, May 31, 2025. Chaired by Shri Gulab Chand, JWA/WPC Wing, this extensive meeting addressed 15 documents in preparation for the upcoming WP-5D gathering. A significant portion of the discussions centered on Agenda Item 1.7. Six documents specifically examined sharing and compatibility within the 7.125 - 8.4 GHz band, covering IMT vs (1) EESS & SRS, (2) Fixed Service (FS), (3) Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) (Earth-to-space) and (4) MSS. Additionally, one document focused on Agenda Item 1.13, concerning regulatory considerations to protect terrestrial IMT systems under WRC-27. Another document that discussed the "National approaches of some countries on the implementation of terrestrial IMT systems in bands identified for IMT" was also approved. In addition, one document on TPR was also agreed for submission.

IAFI and GSOA partner for India's Premier Space Policy Conference 2025



The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is pleased to announce a strategic collaboration with the Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA) for the 2nd IAFI Space Policy Conference 2025, taking place on July 24-25, 2025, in New Delhi, India. This conference offers a unique opportunity to explore the revolutionary changes sweeping through the global telecommunications industry, particularly in India, driven by next-generation satellite constellations. India's satellite sector is undergoing an unprecedented transformation. Fueled by recent policy reforms, including the landmark Telecommunications Act (2023) which advocates for multi-stakeholder discussions, and the Indian Space Policy 2023, which permits 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in satellites, the landscape is rapidly opening to private sector participation. This liberalization, aligned with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision, is creating immense opportunities beyond ISRO's traditional leadership. As India solidifies its position as a major player in the global space economy, this conference will serve as a crucial platform to understand and engage with these exciting developments, unlocking unprecedented growth and collaborative ventures.

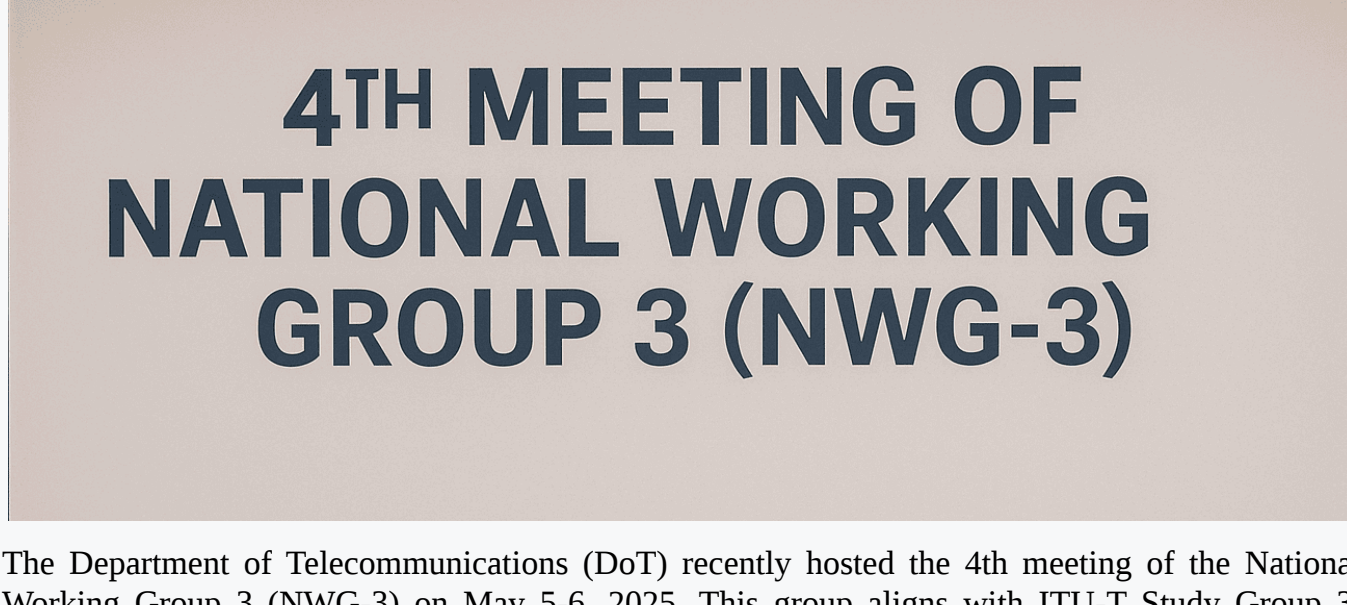
TEC organized 5th virtual meeting of Satellite based IoT solution



The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) recently hosted its 5th virtual working group meeting on Satellite-based IoT solutions on June 5, 2025. The discussions focused on analyzing existing IoT/ICT standards, specifications, and guidelines for satellite solutions with a view to understand stakeholders requirements for satellite-based solutions and to reach consensus on national and international best practices, benchmarks and policies.

During the meeting, the IAFI presented three important contributions - (1) to limit the unauthorized operations of non-geostationary-satellite orbit earth stations in the fixed-satellite and mobile-satellite services, (2) a comparative study between 3GPP NB-IoT over NTN (release-17+) and LoRaWAN IoT used vis satellite and (3) proposed amendments to the draft Technical Report circulated by TEC regarding Satellite IoT. The IAFI underscored the severity of the unauthorized NGSO satellite issue and detailed the efforts undertaken by both IAFI and India to address it. Participants were informed that IAFI President, Shri Bharat Bhatia, presented a comprehensive document at the recent ITU-R WP-4A meeting on behalf of India, recently held meeting at Shanghai, China. This document proposed a detailed modus operandi to curb the menace of unauthorized NGSO earth station operations. Following thorough discussion and responses to queries from member countries, the document was widely accepted for developing draft CPM text in future meetings. A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to the document concerning unauthorized Non-Geostationary Satellite Orbit (NGSO) operations. The DDG (Sat), DoT also highlighted the urgency of this issue, particularly following a recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, emphasizing the need for a thorough investigation, as many such devices were recovered. The DDG, Satcom Monitoring Centre (SMC), DoT informed the meeting that a committee has been formed to address the problem, though challenges persist due to weak signal levels making data extraction difficult. It was also noted that many devices do not broadcast their GPS location (latitude/longitude), making identification a significant hurdle. While M's Stalior indicated that devices have a built-in feature to relay location data, this parameter is often suppressed by a software due to privacy concerns or other reasons. Recognizing the severity of the situation, the DDG (IoT), TEC and Chair of the group agreed to continue discussions over the security concerns in future meetings. Remaining two documents were also discussed and a merged draft report was developed by TEC and will be circulated for further improvement.

4th Meeting of National Working Group 3 (NWG-3)



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) recently hosted the 4th meeting of the National Working Group 3 (NWG-3) on May 5-6, 2025. This group aligns with ITU-T Study Group 3, which focuses on "Tariff and Accounting principles and International Telecommunication/ICT Economic and policy issues." The meeting was chaired by the Member (Finance) of the Digital Communications Commission and convened by Sh. Sathish M.C., Vice-Chair cum Convener of NWG3.

During the previous Study Group 3 meeting, held from April 8-17, 2025, India submitted four key documents. Two of these proposed new work items:

- Re-evaluating Cost-Based Tariff Assessment in Telecom.
- Developing a technical report on cost models for provisioning Satellite Internet Connectivity Services.

The other two documents presented were:

- Base text for the draft technical report on the 'Study of Network Slicing in the International Telecommunications Ecosystem'.
- Guidelines for a Framework to develop AI Principles as related to telecommunication/ICT plans and strategies.

Chairman requested all participant to actively participate in the meeting. Members were informed that the next Study Group 3 meeting is scheduled for November 2025.

ITU Space Connect Webinar series : Episode-5- on Space Safety for Future Operations

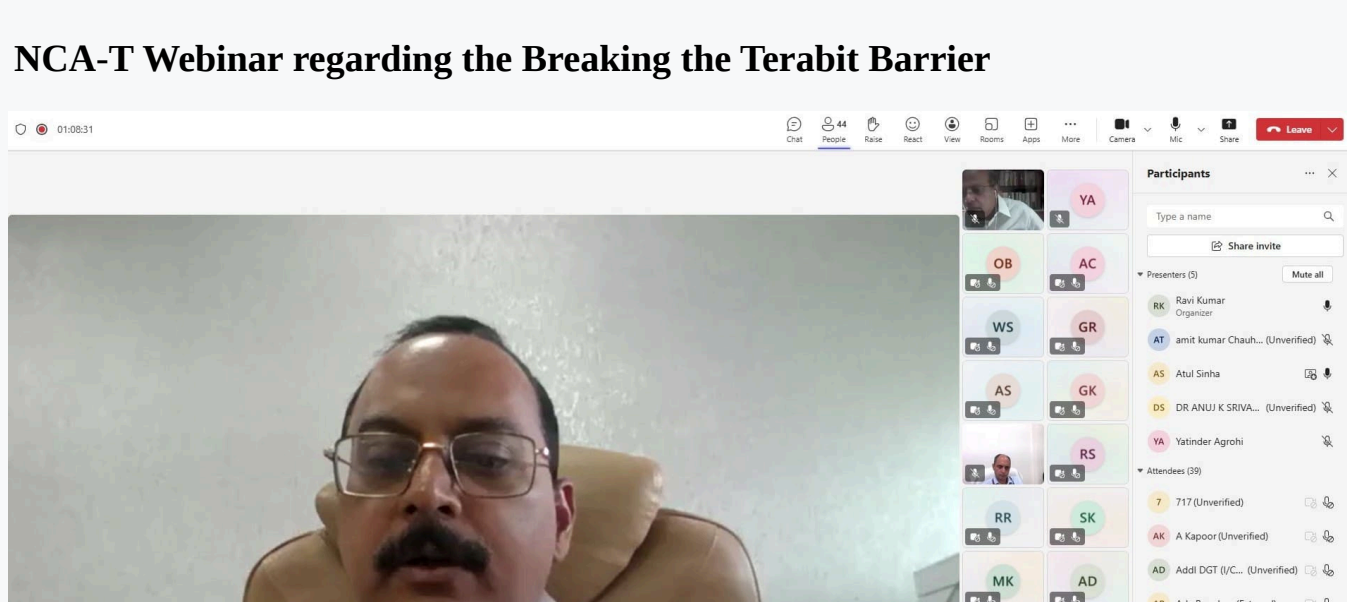


The ITU Space Connect monthly series continues to provide dynamic virtual episodes exploring the rapidly evolving space sector. These monthly sessions cover a diverse range of topics, from satellite technologies and space safety to climate monitoring, emergency response, and economic development. Each episode features expert presentations, interactive panel discussions, and opportunities for audience engagement, with all materials accessible via ITU's online portal. IAFI participated in the fifth episode, held on June 5, 2025, regarding "Space Safety: Protecting Space for Future Operations." The core of the session was an interactive panel discussion titled "Navigating the Intersection of Space Safety, Sustainability, and Security." This discussion highlighted critical challenges and advancements in collision avoidance, debris mitigation, and promoting responsible orbital behavior. Panelists also explored how international collaboration is shaping the future of space governance and shared real-world examples of successful practices for ensuring a safe, sustainable, and secure space environment.

The session was expertly moderated by Mr. Thomas González Roberts, ITU's Academic in Residence. Three distinguished panelists contributed to the discussion:

- Ms. Emmanuelle David, Executive Director, EPFL Space Center, Swiss Institute of Technology (EPFL), Lausanne.
- Dr. Xiao-Shan Yip, Assistant Professor of Innovation and Global Governance, Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University, Netherlands.
- Shri P.M. Soundar Rajan, a pioneer and leading expert in combat aircraft avionics.

NCA-T Webinar regarding the Breaking the Terabit Barrier



IAFI participated in the webinar organized by the National Communications Academy-T, DoT, Chennai on 06th June 2025 regarding Breaking the Terabit Barrier : The Evolution of the Transport Networks (OTN) to 400T and Beyond. Webinar was aimed to explore the transformative journey of Optical Transport Networks (OTN) from traditional systems to cutting-edge 400 Terabit capabilities, by integrating insights from academic research, technological innovation, and industry deployment. This webinar aims to equip telecom professionals, policymakers, and researchers with a comprehensive understanding of the scientific foundations, engineering challenges, and strategic implications of next-generation high-capacity optical networks, paving the way for India's digital infrastructure evolution.

Following three esteemed speakers of International repute, C-DoT and Industry shared insights on current research, field implementations, and innovations on Optical Transport Networks (OTN) to 400T and beyond.

- Dr. A K Srivastava, ITS, Former Executive Director, MTNL delivered the lecture on 5th generation of Optical Communications: Achieving a Speed up to 400 Tbps and beyond.
- Sh. Digamber Yadav, Group Leader & Scientist-F Optical Core Network, C-DoT delivered the lecture on Optical Communication: Trends and Industry Perspective.
- Sh. Gaurav Bafna Director, Sales Engineering M/s Ciena India Pvt Ltd delivered the lecture on Optical Communication: AI & Global Network Trends.

Starlink gets key license to launch satellite internet services in India



Elon Musk's Starlink has secured a crucial Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) license from Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 06th June, 2025. This marks a significant step towards their commercial launch in the country, making them the third company (after Eutelsat's OneWeb and Reliance Jio) to receive such authorization. Starlink still need further approvals from India's space regulator (IS-SPACe) and to secure airwaves. In March, 2025, Starlink signed agreements with India's top two telecom operators -- Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel -- to bring the U.S. satellite internet giant's services to the world's most populous country.

TRAII 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 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 WDC25-4)	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

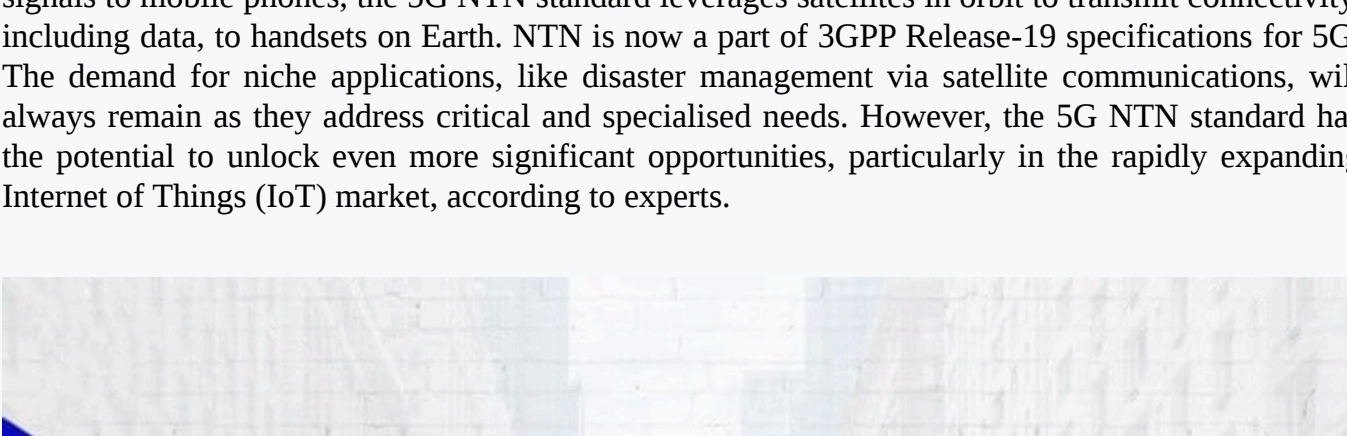
Telecom Stories:



DoT is aware about the need or demand of 6GHz spectrum for both Wi-Fi and mobile services. In India, this band at present is hugely used by satellite based (Very Small Aperture Terminal) VSAT and broadcast related services. DoT is working with all stakeholders to find an optimal and best possible solution. NEW DELHI: The ambitious production-linked incentive or PLI scheme, launched by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) created as many as 25,359 new jobs, and facilitated equipment sales worth Rs 68,708 crores. The department is working on strengthening initiative to curtail spoof calls, originating from overseas, and is driving proliferation of fifth generation (5G) use cases to support telecom carriers. In an interaction with ETTelecom's Muntazir Abbas, Telecom Secretary & Chairman, Digital Communications Commission (DCC), Neeraj Mittal talks on efforts to curb spam calls, 6GHz band controversy, relevant 5G use cases, PLI scheme, and telecom technology development fund (TTDF). Edited excerpts.



NEW DELHI: The adoption of Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN) along with terrestrial 5G, has the potential to revolutionise the telecom industry by creating a truly seamless network, according to experts. The integration of NTN with terrestrial 5G will greatly boost space segment capacity, allowing more users to access higher data rate services. Unlike traditional mobile towers that beam signals to mobile phones, the 5G NTN standard leverages satellites in orbit to transmit connectivity, including data, to handhelds on Earth. NTN is now a part of 3GPP Release-19 specifications for 5G. The demand for niche applications, like disaster management via satellite communications, will always remain as they address critical and specialised needs. However, the 5G NTN standard has the potential to unlock even more significant opportunities, particularly in the rapidly expanding Internet of Things (IoT) market, according to experts.



The Department of Telecommunications has initiated a review process of its Public Procurement Preference—Make in India (PPP-MII) order dated October 21, 2024. In an effort to ensure that the policy remains relevant and effective for India's evolving telecom manufacturing sector, the DoT has invited comments and suggestions from all relevant stakeholders. It seeks stakeholder feedback on revising the product list, local content requirements for design and software, and criteria for calculating local content. The DoT has specified that comments should be submitted within 30 days from the date of the notice. This inclusive approach aims to gather a wide range of perspectives from industry players, manufacturers, industry associations, and other interested parties.