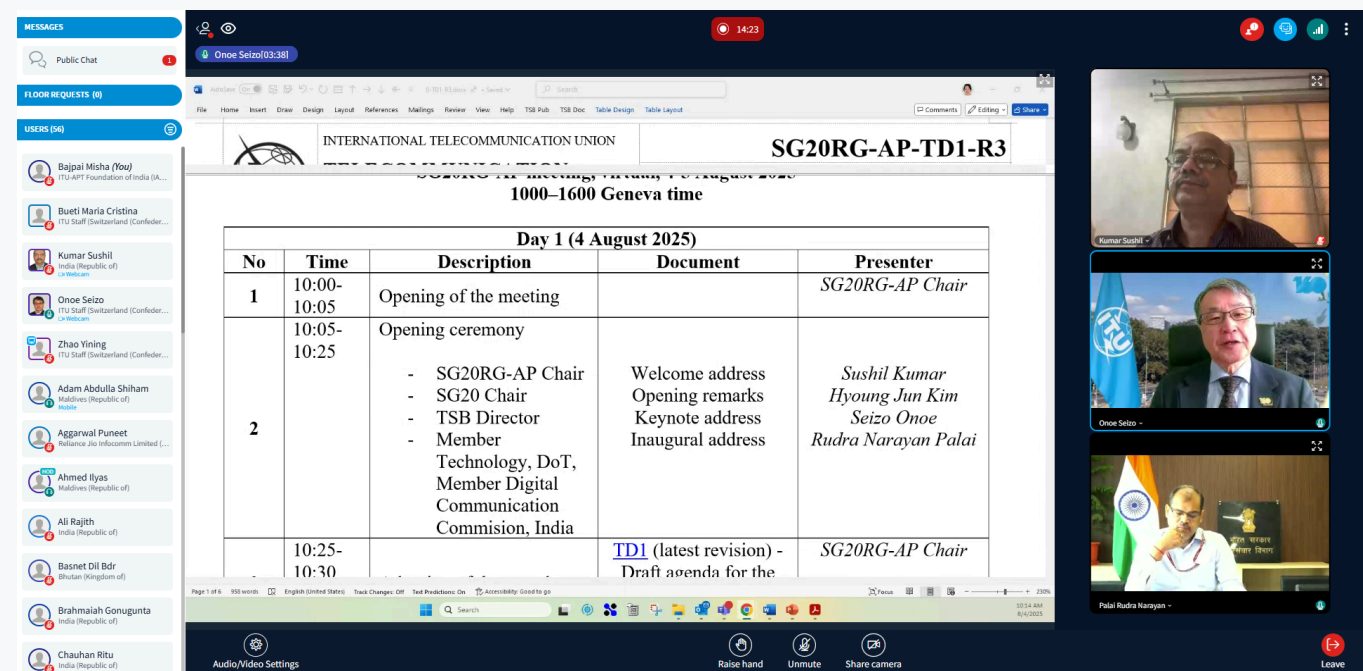


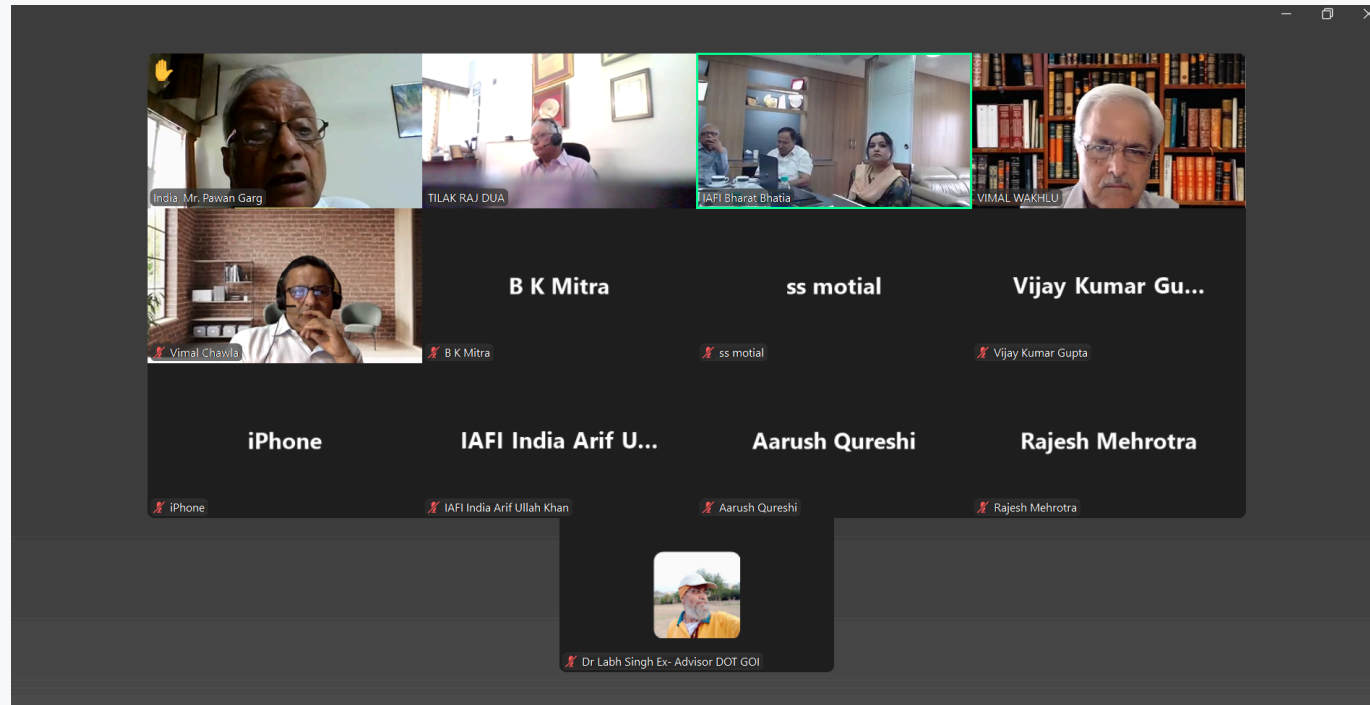
IAFI News

IAFI participated in ITU-T SG20RG-AP meeting



IAFI participated in the ITU-T Study Group 20 Regional Group for Asia and the Pacific (SG20RG-AP) meeting, which was held virtually on August 4-5, 2025 under the chairmanship of Shri Sushil Kumar, ex-Addl DGT DoT. The meeting saw participation from 133 individuals representing 10 countries. ITU-T Study Group 20 focuses on key topics like the Internet of Things (IoT), digital twins, citizenise, and Smart Sustainable Cities & Communities (SSC&C). The SG20 Chair, Mr. Hyoung Jun Kim, delivered encouraging opening remarks, urging everyone to actively participate in the upcoming ITU-T Study Group 20 meeting from September 15-25, 2025. Mr. Seizo Onoe, Director (TSB), emphasized the regional group's role in ensuring international standards reflect regional needs. Mr. Rudra Narayan Palai, Member (Technology), Digital Communication Commission, India, highlighted the critical role of IoT, digital twins, and smart cities in the region's digital transformation. Mr. Marco Carugi, SG20 mentor, hosted a session for newcomers, detailing the procedures for joining ITU meetings and submitting contributions. A total of 32 documents, including 11 contributions, were discussed. Mr. Ramy Ahmed Fathy, Chair of SG20RG-AFR, was invited to share a key outcome from their meeting on July 29-30, 2025. He presented a proposal for a new Question on "Digital agriculture, food systems and the Agriverse" to be submitted at the upcoming SG20 meeting. The SG20RG-AP members discussed the proposal and expressed their support. The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking all dignitaries for their valuable guidance. Shri Shubhendu Tiwari, Advisor Technology, DoT, India, delivered the closing remarks.

The 23rd Executive Committee Meeting of IAFI



The 23 rd meeting Executive Council (EC) of ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) was held on August 6, 2025, to review activities since last EC meeting, to discuss membership updates, and plan for future events. Meeting was held from IAFI's office, in hybrid mode, both in-person and virtual participation. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI presided over meeting and welcomed all the participants. Shri T.R. Dua, Chairman, IAFI highlighted the IAFI's active engagement with international telecommunications organizations like ITU and APT. He also noted the foundation's consistent advocacy with various government bodies in India, including DoT, TRAI, TEC, WPC, DoS/IN-SPACE/NSIL, and with key ministers on crucial latest telecom issues. The EC welcomed several new individual lifetime members, including former government officials and academics. The total membership now stands at 173, comprising 121 individual members, 24 honorary members, and 28 corporate members. The EC reviewed four major events organized by IAFI since the last EC meeting held in January 2025:

- A farewell luncheon for Ms. Madhu Arora, the retired Member (Technology) of the Digital Communications Commission (DCC), on January 17, 2025.
- The 2nd Preparatory Workshop for WRC-27 on April 7, which convened over 150 participants to discuss agenda items for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference.
- A national conference on "Wi-Fi in 6 GHz Unlocking the future of Innovation" on June 19, which advocated for licencing the Lower 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi in India, aligning with a global trend of over 94 countries.
- The 2nd India Space Policy Conference recently held from 24-25 July, 2025 at Hotel Imperial, Janpath, New Delhi, which brought together 250 delegates from government, industry, and academia to foster collaboration in the Indian satellite ecosystem.

Looking ahead, the EC confirmed that the next **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held on September 14, 2025, at CSOI, KG Marg, New Delhi followed by a family lunch and get together. The council also briefed the members on several upcoming events, including participation in the ITU-D mega-event **WTDC-25** in Baku, Azerbaijan from 17-28 Nov, 2025 and organizing the annual flagship event, the 5th India Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC), from December 8-9, 2025.

Supreme court upheld a Delhi High Court ruling classifies telecom towers as “movable property”



In a significant victory for the telecom industry, the Supreme Court has dismissed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by the Revenue Department. The decision upholds a Delhi High Court ruling that classifies mobile telecom towers as "plant and machinery" and "movable" property. This allows telecom companies, including Bharti Airtel and Indus Towers, to claim Input Tax Credit (ITC) on the materials and services used to construct this infrastructure under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

Reliance Jio emerges as world's largest Telecom Service Provider



Reliance Jio has emerged as the world's largest telecom service provider with over 488 million users, including 191 million on its 5G network. The company is also investing in satellite communications and 6G technologies. Company has expanded its Airfiber network in more than 1000 cities in India, expecting 100 million customers.

DoT Consultation Paper

Consultation Paper	Submission Dates	Status
Circulation of Draft National Telecom Policy (NTP), 2025 for Public Consultation.	14th Aug 2025	Under Development

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI Meeting
APT: The 35th Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-35)	08th - 12th Sep 2025	28th Aug 2025	20th Aug 2025
APT: The 5th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-5)	15th - 19th Sep 2025	3rd Sep 2025	20th Aug 2025
ITU-R: Working Party 7D (WP 7D) - Radio astronomy	15th - 24th Sep 2025	3rd Sep 2025	-
ITU-R: Working Party 7B (WP 7B) - Space radiocommunication applications	16th - 25th Sep 2025	4th Sep 2025	-
ITU-R: Working Party 7C (WP 7C) - Remote sensing systems	16th - 25th Sep 2025	4th Sep 2025	-

Telecom Stories:



Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia on August 7 announced a significant reduction in telecom equipment certification fees, a move aimed at easing compliance burdens and promoting domestic manufacturing. The announcement comes as part of the government's broader push towards enhancing the ease of doing business and building a self-reliant digital infrastructure.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Scindia said, "Telecom testing made cheaper with certification fees slashed by up to 95% across over 50 categories... boosting compliance, accelerating Ease of Doing Business, strengthening trust for a self-reliant.""

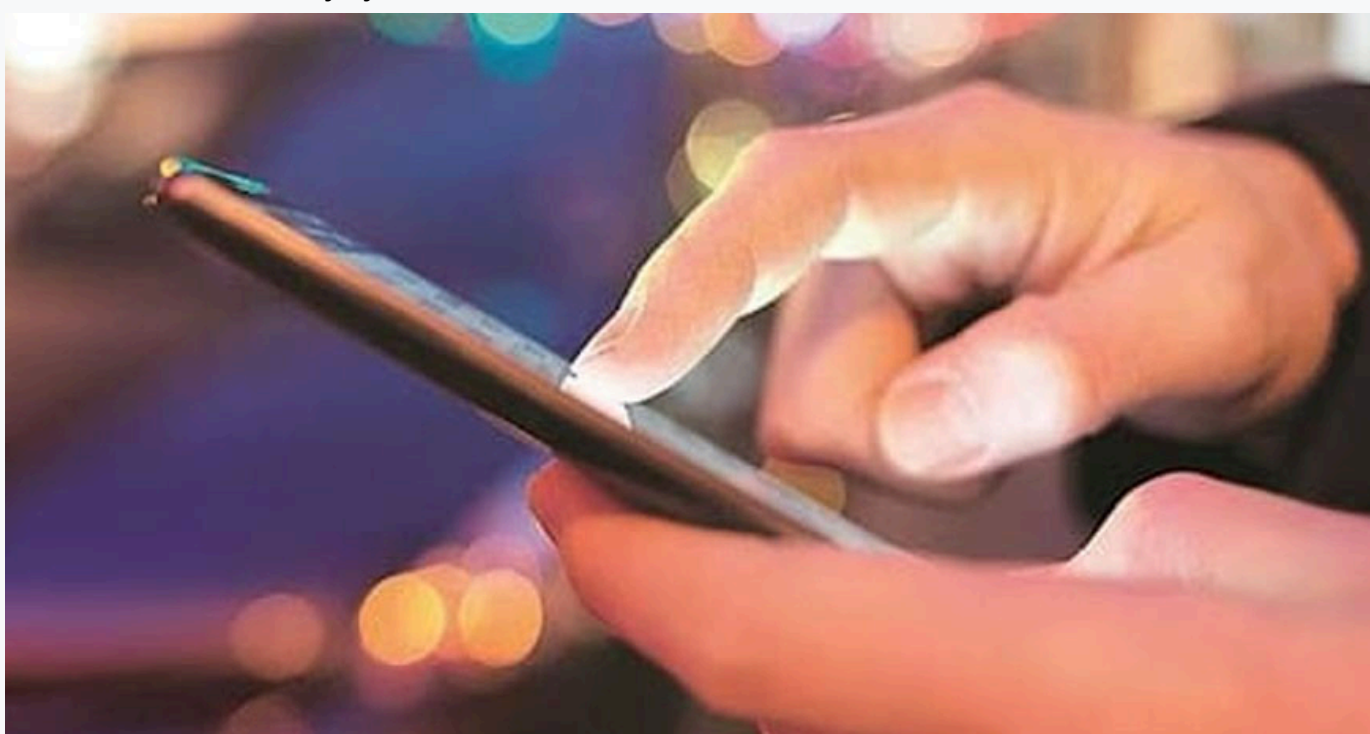


The data, traffic and other details accumulated by Elon Musk's Starlink will be stored in India, and the domestic user traffic is not to be mirrored to any system/server located abroad, the Parliament was informed.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has granted a Unified License (UL) to Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited after agreeing to the stipulated terms and conditions of the UL, including security conditions.

The satellite company is set to begin its affordable internet services soon in the country.

Minister of State of Communications and Rural Development, Dr Pennmansi Chandra Sekhar, told the Rajya Sabha, in a written reply, that the 'security conditions, inter-alia, include the establishment of earth station gateway(s) in India for providing satellite-based communication services with no user traffic originating from or destined for India to be routed through any gateway located outside India, no copying and decryption of the Indian data outside the country, and the Indian user traffic is not to be mirrored to any system/server located abroad'." EN



The Telecom Regulator Authority of India (TRAI) released its Independent Drive Test (IDT) findings for the North East Licensed Service Area (LSA), covering extensive city routes of Itanagar, Naharlagun of Arunachal Pradesh and Dimapur, Kohima of Nagaland and highway route of Itanagar to Bumla Pass (Tawang) along NH-13 in the month of June 2025. The drive tests, conducted under the supervision of the TRAI Regional Office, Kolkata, were designed to capture real-world mobile network performance across diverse usage environments- Urban Zones, Institutional Hotspots, rural residential areas etc.

Between 2nd June 2025 to 23rd June 2025, TRAI teams conducted detailed tests across Itanagar, Naharlagun, Itanagar to Bumla Pass (Tawang) along NH-13 in Arunachal Pradesh and Dimapur, Kohima in Nagaland covering 270.3 Km of city drive test, 526.6 Km of highway test, 28 Hotspot locations and 1 Km of walk test. Technologies evaluated included 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G, reflecting the service experience of users across multiple handset capabilities. The findings of the IDT have already been intimated to all the TSPs concerned.

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