

IAFI News

WEEK IN BRIEF

ITU-R WP 5D - 53rd meeting advances WRC-27 preparations on IMT spectrum and direct-to-device connectivity.
ITU-R WP 4C - Reviews satellite-to-smartphone studies for WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.13.
India's NSG-4 - Defers final position on X- and V-band NGSO gateway spectrum pending WP 4A discussions.
TRAI report - India's internet subscribers reach 1.093 billion; telephone subscribers total 1.331 billion at March 2026.
India Mobile Congress 2026 - Showcases 6G, AI-native telecom, satcom, cybersecurity and digital infrastructure.

ITU-R WP 5D: WRC-27 and 6G Studies Move Forward



The 53rd ITU-R Working Party 5D meeting was held in hybrid format in Geneva from 28 September to 8 October, with nearly 600 experts processing 150 contributions. Key priorities included draft Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) text for WRC-27 Agenda Items 1.7 (potential IMT allocations) and 1.13 (direct connectivity between satellites and standard mobile devices). AI 1.7 attracted 53 new contributions, with 26 sessions held across drafting groups covering 4 GHz, 7–8 GHz and 15 GHz. AI 1.13 generated 28 contributions and debate on the liaison to WP 4C. The meeting also completed the IMT-2030 submission template and advanced updates to ITU-R reports, including work on critical IMT bands around 600 MHz and 6 GHz. IAFI leadership remained prominent: Bharat Bhatia (IAFI President) chaired the Working Group on General Aspects; Jitendra Singh (Qualcomm India; IAFI Vice Chairman) chaired the Sub-Working Group on Specific Applications; Punit Rathod (Qualcomm India) chaired the 7–8 GHz drafting group for AI 1.7; and Sendil Kumar (Ericsson India) chaired the 6G evaluation drafting group. IAFI members also contributed virtually. The next WP 5D meeting is scheduled for 7–17 February 2027, likely in Geneva.

WP 4C Examines Direct-to-Device Satellite Connectivity



The 7–16 October WP 4C meeting is considering WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.13 on direct-to-device (D2D) connectivity: satellites connecting directly to standard mobile phones using terrestrial mobile bands from 694 MHz to 2.7 GHz. WP 4C is the responsible group, with WP 5D contributing. On 9 October, the WP 5D Chair transmitted study results to WP 4C, including potential regulatory limits and measures to protect terrestrial IMT networks from interference. WP 4C will consider these inputs for Section 3 of the draft CPM text.

India's NSG-4 Defers Position on NGSO Gateway Spectrum



At its 6 October meeting, National Study Group 4 considered India's position on WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.3 concerning X- and V-band NGSO gateway spectrum, including a new Reliance Jio contribution supporting Method B. The group decided to await the forthcoming WP 4A meeting before proceeding.

TRAI Annual Report: Telecom Subscriber Base Expands



TRAI's *Indian Telecom Services—Yearly Performance Indicators, 2025–26* reports continued growth in India's telecom sector:

- Internet subscribers: 1,092.79 million at March 2026, up from 969.10 million a year earlier.
- Broadband subscribers: 1,065.88 million; narrowband: 26.91 million.
- Telephone subscribers: 1,330.58 million, up 10.81% year-on-year.
- Tele-density: 93.26%, compared with 85.04% in March 2025.
- Gross revenue: ₹4,04,067 crore in 2025–26, up 8.59% year-on-year.

Read the TRAI annual report: https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/2026-10/PR_No127of2026.pdf

India Mobile Congress 2026: 'Scale Without Boundaries'



The 10th India Mobile Congress took place at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, from 7–10 October under the theme “Scale Without Boundaries.” Its four pillars covered future technologies (6G, AI-native telecom, quantum and semiconductors); growth (5G monetisation, satcom/D2D and manufacturing); opportunity (green telecom, sustainability and inclusive access); and trust (cybersecurity, responsible AI and zero-trust networks). Ahead of IMC, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with GSMA Board members at Seva Teerth.

Further details: <https://www.dot.gov.in/static/uploads/2026/10/5c72a770e44d342471fea8a2d1d1cf51.pdf>

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R: Study Group 6 (SG 6) - Broadcasting Service	02nd October 2026	20th September 2026
ITU-R: Working Party 4C (WP 4C)	07th - 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 is working towards setting up 8-9 semiconductor fabrication plants and developing standards for 6G technology, Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M Scindia said at the IFQM Symposium 2026 in New Delhi. Scindia said one of the semiconductor fabrication plants is coming up in Assam. He also said the government is working with IITs to develop standards for 6G technology, with India aiming to account for 10% of global 6G patents. Speaking at the two-day symposium, Scindia said India could emerge as a global reference point for quality, innovation and self-reliance.



Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the Workshop on 5G Use Case Labs at the 10th edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026, underscoring the Government of India's commitment to strengthening indigenous innovation, promoting research and empowering young innovators in the telecommunications sector. Held under the theme “Building Intelligent Networks: Innovations Driving the 5G Advanced and 6G Era,” the workshop aims to foster industry-academia collaboration and accelerate the translation of academic research into practical, technology-driven solutions. The initiative highlights the pivotal role of students, researchers and academic institutions in developing innovative 5G applications and preparing India's talent ecosystem for next-generation communication technologies.



The Centre will publish a consultation paper within a month that will form the foundation of India's techno-legal regulatory framework for artificial intelligence (AI), electronics and information technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday. The paper will focus on five areas — safety, humanity, skilling, inclusivity and harm mitigation. The government's view is that AI cannot be regulated through legislation alone and requires a techno-legal approach, which the minister has said many times before, with stakeholders brought on board from the start. Much of the implementation, MeitY believes, will fall to industry, which must take primary responsibility for addressing user harm, cybersecurity, safety, psychological disorders and deepfakes.

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