

AWG-36 Meeting at Brunei, Darussalam

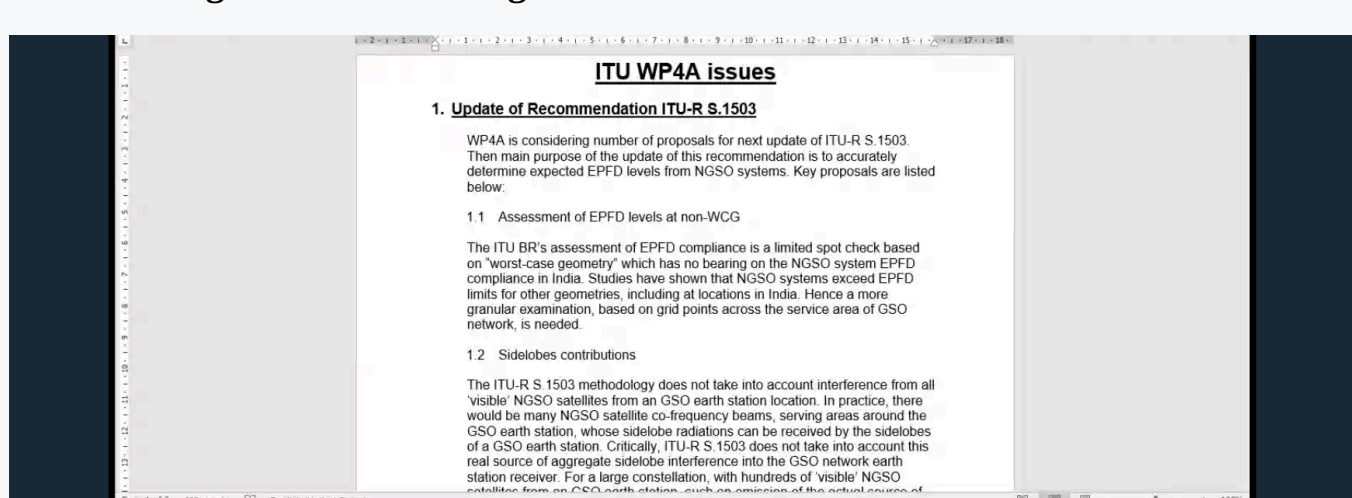
Finally, the Chair of the Working Groups, and especially the participants for their support and contributions, and especially the Working Group Chairs and Acting Chairs, Ms. Ye Min, Mr. Zheng Gao Orange as well as the general support from the APT Secretariat.



The 36th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Wireless Group (AWG-36) successfully concluded on 10th April, 2026 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Meeting was organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by the Authority for Information Technology Industry (AITI) of Brunei, from April 6 to 10, 2026. Meeting was attended by 404 participants, including 328 delegates from 26 member countries. A major highlight of the conference was the decisive participation of the Indian delegation. Several members of the IAFI, including Shri Bharat Bhatia (President, IAFI), Dr. Punit Rathod (Lead Technical Standard, Qualcomm), Shri Jitendra Singh, and Dr. Sendil Devar, actively steered the regional agenda. Indian representatives successfully guided critical discussions by chairing several key Sub-Working Groups (SWGs) and Task Groups (TGs) throughout the session, underscoring India's commitment to advancing collaborative technological growth. A 6G Workshop was organized by Dr. Sendil Devar along with China during AWG-36. The successful conclusion of AWG-36 was highlighted by major leadership appointments for India: Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, appointed as Vice-Chairman/Special Advisor to AWG-36 and Dr. Punit Rathod, Lead - Technical Standard, Qualcomm, appointed as Chair of SWG IMT-TECH. AWG-36 marks a significant step forward in Asia-Pacific telecom collaboration, with India positioned at the forefront of the region's wireless future. Next AWG-37 meeting will be held at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Read More: <https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/india-secures-key-leadership-roles-at-apt-meet-in-brunei/>

10th meeting of NWP4A2 on agenda item 1.5 of WRC-27



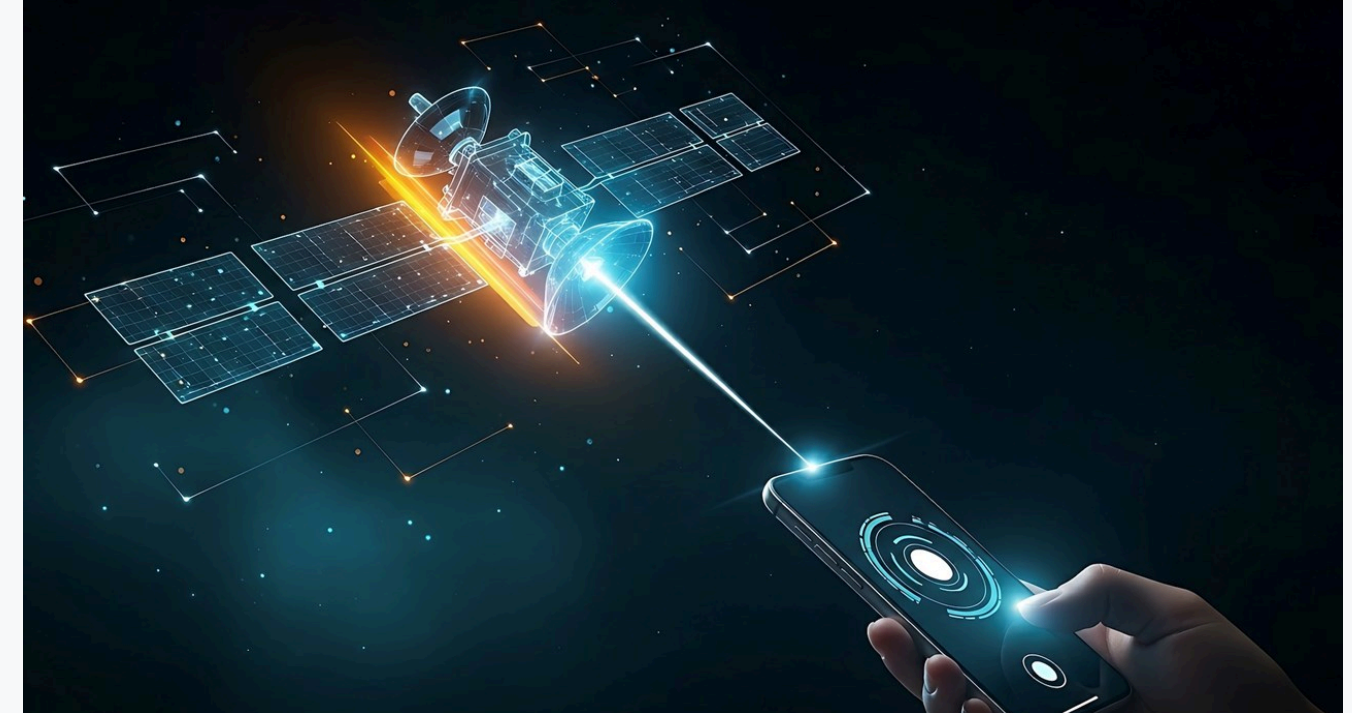
The 10th meeting of NWP4A2 was held on April 7, 2026, to further consider the IAFI input on WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.5, along with draft action points related to the Viasat submission and additional inputs from Amazon LEO. The revised document—featuring changes to sections such as responsible administration, NCMC capabilities, non-GSO studies, and service area exclusions—was reviewed and approved for submission to NSG-4 without further modification. Discussions on a separate document concerning Recommendation S.1503 and Article 22 limits saw differing views, with some members preferring no changes to the existing Viasat submission. It was ultimately agreed that a new document incorporating prior inputs and proposed action points would be prepared for consideration at the next meeting.

17th meeting of the National Study Group 4 (NSG4) on Contributions to WP4A and WP4C



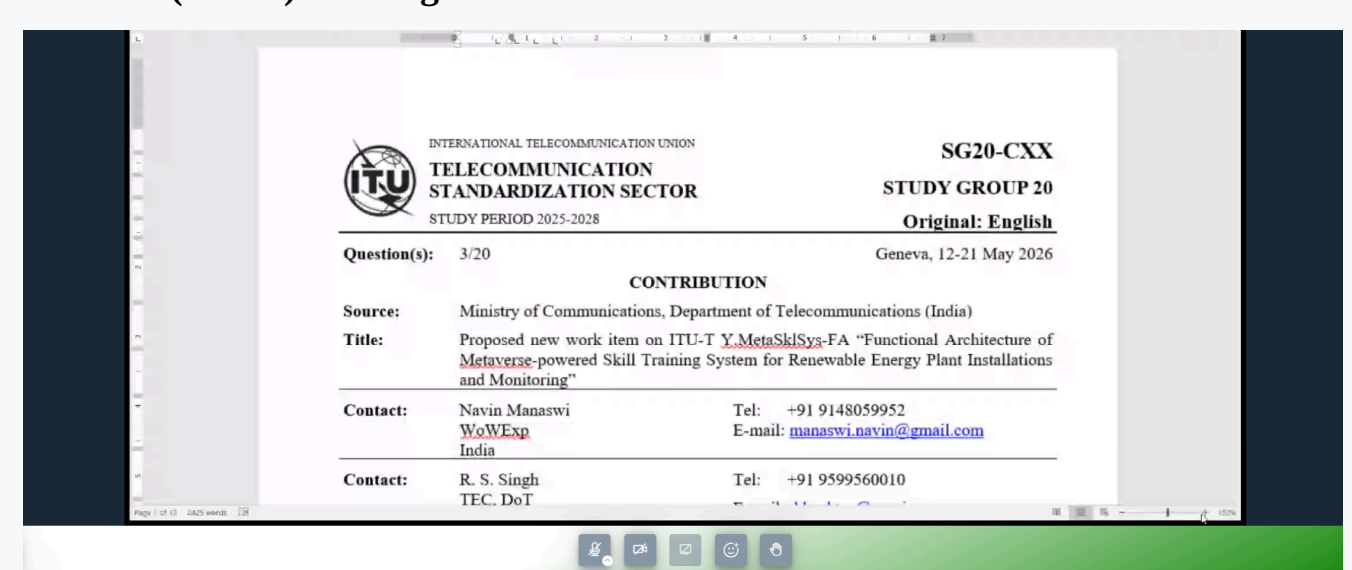
17th meeting of NSG4 was held on 10 April 2026. The meeting was chaired by Ms M Revathi, Joint Wireless Adviser to the Govt. of India. The meeting considered IAFI contributions for agenda items 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.5. Contribution on 1.5 was approved while other contributions will be reworked by the NWP 4A1.

TRAI Consultation Paper on Framework for Direct-to-Device (D2D) Satellite Networks



On April 8, 2026, TRAI released a consultation paper titled "Framework for Satellite Communication Network Authorisation, and Assignment of Spectrum to Satellite Communication Network Providers." This was issued at the behest of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), which proposed the introduction of a new Satellite Communication Network (SCN) Authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. Key highlights and objectives of the Consultation Paper is regarding exploring the feasibility of Direct-to-Device communication, enabling direct transmission from satellites to ordinary mobile phones, to bridge the digital divide by providing seamless, ubiquitous connectivity, particularly in remote and rural areas that remain un-served or underserved by traditional networks. TRAI is seeking stakeholder views on whether this D2D service should be provided using Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) spectrum or the standard International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) spectrum used for regular cellular services. It proposes for infrastructure providers to hold spectrum, as can deploy satellites and gateway earth stations, and then lease capacity to multiple terrestrial telecom service providers. Last date of submission of comments is 06 May, 2026.

NWG-20 (SG-20) Meeting at TEC – 10-04-2026



IAFI participated in the 11th virtual meeting of the National Working Group 20 (NWG-20) of TEC, corresponding to ITU-T Study Group 20 on "Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Twins and Smart Sustainable Cities & Communities (SSC&C)," which was held on April 10, 2026. Shri R. S. Singh, DDG, chaired the meeting, and Ms. Namrata Singh, Dir (IoT), TEC, served as the coordinator.

A total of ten documents were presented and discussed in detail during the meeting. TEC presented a proposal to introduce a new work item [ITU-T Y.HyIoT-Agri] on the "Requirements and reference architecture for hybrid IoT network systems for remote agriculture." During the discussions, it was agreed that IAFI will join as a co-editor/supporting organization, along with India and C-DOT.

The next and final meeting of the NWG-20 will be held next week. It is pertinent to mention that the ITU-T SG-20 meeting is scheduled to be held from May 12–21, 2026.

UAE launches World's First 10G Internet Network using U6GHz Spectrum



The UAE launches the world's first 10G U6GHz internet network, offering ultra-fast speeds, low latency and paving the way for advanced technologies and future 6G connectivity. The U6GHz spectrum works in the frequency range of 6425-7125 MHz. It is often called a "golden band" because it offers both wide coverage and high speed at the same time. The new network in the UAE is extremely fast and powerful. It can provide download speeds up to 10 Gbps and upload speeds up to 1 Gbps. Such high speeds make day to day online activities much smoother, as large files can be downloaded in seconds, watch ultra HD videos without buffering, and enjoy faster response times in online gaming and apps. Another important feature is low latency, which means very little delay. This is especially useful for advanced technologies like artificial intelligence, cloud services and virtual reality.

TRAI Consultation Paper

Consultation Paper	Submission Dates	Status
Consultation on Draft Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026.	19th April 2026	Under Development
Consultation Paper on the Framework for Satellite Communication Network Authorisation, and Assignment of Spectrum to Satellite Communication Network Providers	06th May 2026	Under Development

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
APT: The 38th APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-38)	20th - 24th April 2026	13th April 2026
ITU-R: WP 4C – Efficient Orbit/Spectrum Utilization for MSS and RDSS	22nd April - 01st May 2026	10th April 2026
ITU-R: WP 4B – Systems, air interfaces, performance and availability objectives for FSS, BSS and MSS	29th April - 05th May 2026	17th April 2026
ITU-R: WP 4A – Efficient Orbit/Spectrum Utilization for FSS and BSS	04th - 14th May 2026	22nd April 2026
ITU-R: SG 4 – Satellite Services	15th May 2026	03rd May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5A – Land mobile service above 30 MHz; amateur and satellite services	18th - 26th May 2026	06th May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5C – Fixed wireless systems; HF and other systems below 30 MHz	18th - 29th May 2026	06th May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5B – Maritime mobile service including GMDSS; aeronautical mobile service	19th - 28th May 2026	07th May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5D – IMT Systems	27th May - 05th June 2026	15th May 2026
APT: The 3rd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-3)	27th - 31st July 2026	20th July 2026

Telecom Stories:



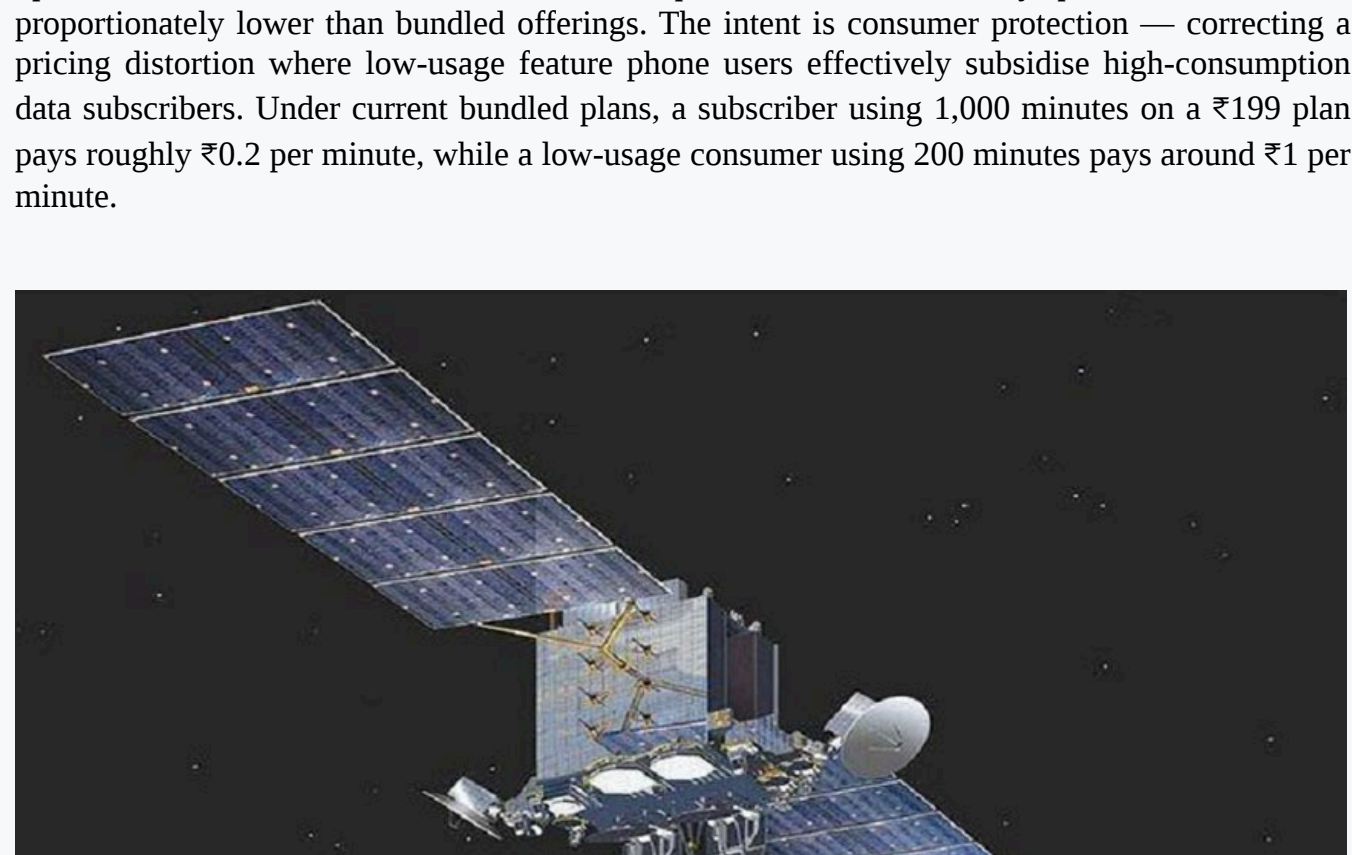
India is gearing up for a massive digital leap, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia just shared that the country expects over one billion people using 5G by 2030. Right now, there are already five lakh towers and 40 crore users, thanks to a huge ₹450,000 crore investment.

Scindia highlights 6G and mobile manufacturing
Scindia also highlighted India's push to lead in 6G tech and its rise as the world's second-biggest mobile maker.

He outlined growth plans built on the first S is stability, the second s is scalability, and the third s is strategic autonomy, mentioning big projects like BharatNet for rural internet and a major boost in highways and airports.



A proposed regulatory change by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India could complicate the industry's carefully engineered strategy of nudging users toward higher-value data plans — and the financial stakes are significant. The draft Telecom Consumer Protection (13th Amendment) Regulation, 2026 proposes that operators offer standalone voice and SMS plans across all validity periods, with tariffs proportionately lower than bundled offerings. The intent is consumer protection — correcting a pricing distortion where low-usage feature phone users effectively subsidise high-consumption data subscribers. Under current bundled plans, a subscriber using 1,000 minutes on a ₹199 plan pays roughly ₹0.2 per minute, while a low-usage consumer using 200 minutes pays around ₹1 per minute.



India's broadcasting sector has undergone a rapid operational shift, moving entirely away from China-linked satellite providers like ChinaSat and ApStar, effective April 1. This strategic pivot, driven by national security concerns, sees broadcasters migrating to US-based Inelsat and India's own GSAT satellites. AsiaSat remains a temporary three-month extension for specific services, but its long-term authorization is under review, highlighting a significant reshaping of the satellite capacity market for Indian media operations.

Follow us on: