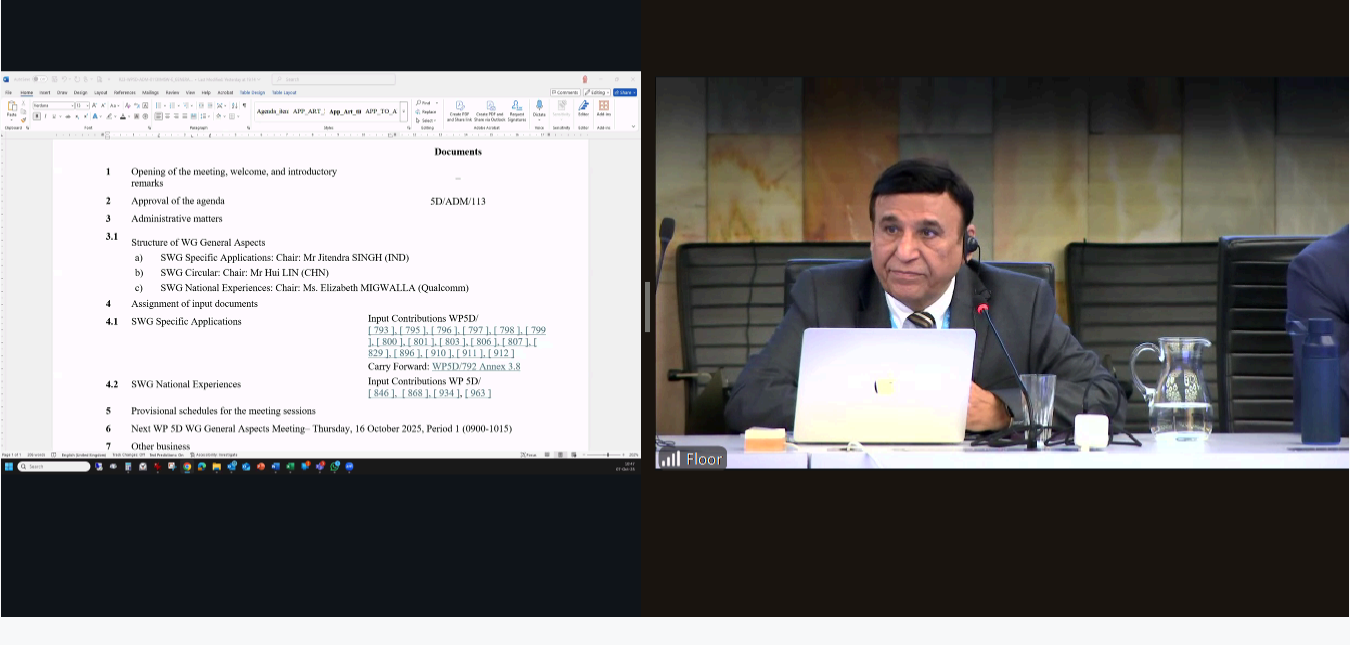


IAFI News

The 50th Meeting of the Working Part-5D (WP-5D)



The 50th Meeting of the ITU-R Working Party 5D (WP 5D) is currently underway in Geneva, Switzerland, operating in a hybrid mode, from October 7 to October 16, 2025. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI participated in the meeting physically and many IAFI members joined the meeting virtually. During the meeting, the Chairman of WP 5D confirmed that the Working Party was established in January 2008. The current session marks the 50th meeting since its inaugural session, held from January 28 to February 1, 2008, highlighting over 17 years of significant contributions to ITU-R Recommendations and Reports. A total of 195 documents are under discussion, with World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) Agenda Item 1.7 drawing the most attention, receiving approximately 80 contributions. IAFI presented three contributions regarding (1) updations of PPDR report ITU-R M.2291-2; (2) updations to the new working document regarding Air-to-Ground (ATG) communication; and (3) updations of the document ITU-R M.2527, regarding applications of the terrestrial components. All IAFI contributions were well-received and thoroughly discussed by the WP 5D delegates.

6 GHz Delay: IAFI warns India may lose AI Race



In a Press Release, The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has cautioned the Hon'ble Prime Minister that India risks falling behind in the global AI race due to the government's continued delay in delicensing the lower 6 GHz spectrum band (5925-6425 MHz) for unlicensed Wi-Fi 6E/7 use. IAFI President, Shri Bharat Bhatia, stated that AI innovation, which relies heavily on robust, high-capacity, low-latency edge networks is being throttled because the necessary spectrum to enable ultra-high-speed, high-density indoor connectivity is unavailable. This crucial spectrum, which has already been delicensed by over 100 countries including the US and EU, is necessary to prevent significant drops in indoor data speeds and support the essential technologies like IoT and Augmented/Virtual Reality that power AI development, digital inclusion efforts, and the country's long-term economic ambition as a digital powerhouse.

IAFI letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister



The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) sent an urgent letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, appealing for the immediate and full delicensing of the lower 6 GHz spectrum band (5925–6425 MHz) for Wi-Fi 6E/7 use. The IAFI cautioned that continued delays in the regulation from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) are jeopardizing India's potential for global leadership in AI and digital innovation. The letter emphasizes that this new band is crucial as it offers unprecedented capacity (up to 9.6 Gbps) and low latency necessary to support AI-driven technologies like IoT, AR/VR, telemedicine, and smart factories, which heavily rely on robust, high-speed indoor connectivity. IAFI pointed out that over 100 countries have already delicensed this spectrum and that India's delay not only threatens to lock the country out of the global innovation wave but also constrains local manufacturing, hinders the bridging of the digital divide in rural areas, and compromises the long-term national economic benefits for the sake of potential short-term auction revenues.

IMC-2025



The India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 is currently running as Asia's largest technology and telecom event, held from October 8 to October 11, 2025, at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in Dwarka, New Delhi. Co-organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), the 9th edition operates under the theme "Innovate to Transform" and focuses on positioning India as a global hub for telecom innovation and digital self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat). The event, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, features key themes including 6G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Satellite Communication (Satcom), Semiconductors, Quantum Communications, and Cyber-security. Highlights include the International Bharat 6G Symposium, the International AI Summit, and the IMC Aspire Programme, which connects over 500 startups with investors. With an expected attendance of over 1.5 lakh visitors, 7,000 global delegates, and 400 companies, the IMC 2025 is showcasing over 1,600 new use-cases across next-generation technologies.

NCA (DoT) and GSMA signed MoU to Boost Telecom Policy and Research



The National Communications Academy (NCA) of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and GSMA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to forge a robust partnership aimed at strengthening cooperation in telecom policy, research, and capacity building. The MoU was formally signed on October 9, 2025, by Shri Vivek Badrinath, Director General of GSMA, and Shri Atul Sinha, Director General of NCA. This agreement establishes a comprehensive framework for collaboration, specifically targeting Policy Development, Research, Training & Capacity Building; enhancing the skills and expertise of personnel within the telecom sector through joint programs. This partnership is expected to significantly contribute to India's digital transformation goals and its role in global telecom standards.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI Meeting
ITU-R: Working Party 5D (WP 5D) - IMT Systems	07th - 16th Oct 2025	25th Sep 2025	-
APT: The 22nd APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF-22)	14th - 16th Oct 2025	04th Oct 2025	-
ITU-R: Working Parties 4A, 4B and 4C	15th - 24th Oct 2025	03rd Oct 2025	-
APT: The 26th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-26)	05th - 07th Nov 2025	06th Oct 2025	-

Telecom Stories:



Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, addressing the India Mobile Congress 2025, outlined a transformative vision for India's digital and telecom sector. He stated that the sector, which currently accounts for 12–14% of the nation's GDP, is poised to contribute up to 20% in the next decade due to rapid technological and infrastructure advancements. This projection is based on the significant role the sector now plays in enabling digital services, fostering entrepreneurship, and supporting India's fast-growing digital economy.



Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (Telecom), and Bilel Jamoussi, Deputy Director of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Policy Department, inaugurated the AI for Good – Impact India Conference 2025 at the India Mobile Congress in New Delhi.

Co-hosted by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the summit focused on advancing responsible and inclusive AI innovation in areas such as healthcare, agriculture, climate resilience, digital inclusion, and public services.

Dr. Mittal underlined that while AI unlocks tremendous opportunities, it also brings challenges like deepfakes, voice cloning, and digital fraud. He stressed AI's transformative potential in telecom networks, particularly in driving the evolution from 5G to 6G through self-healing networks and enhanced customer experiences. He also highlighted the \$1.25 billion Indian AI Mission, aimed at building a trusted, human-centric AI ecosystem through collaboration with global partners including ITU.



The 9th Edition of Indian Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025, the largest telecom, media and technology forum in Asia, jointly organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), entered in 2nd day showcasing futuristic technologies, integration of AI in across sectors and India's digital and telecommunication potential with a range of emerging innovations. Inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India Mobile Congress 2025 is advancing dialogue and networking to further the nation's technological advancements.

The second day of IMC 2025 began with a Leadership Dialogue Round Table meeting of Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, with prominent CEOs from leading global companies on the theme 'Charting India's Telecom Vision'. Also during the day, Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, MoS Communications for Communications and Rural Development, had an engaging discussion with leaders from Indian and global firms during the session CTO Insights: Aligning Innovation with Policy for Digital Leadership.

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