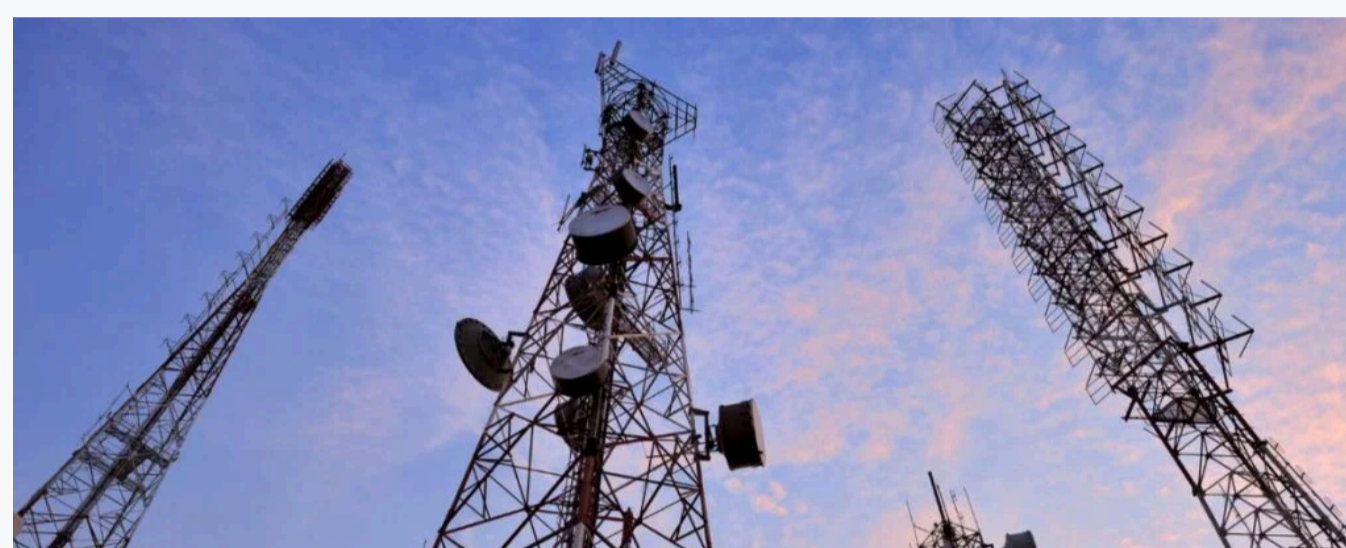


### The 12th Asia-Pacific Spectrum Management Conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



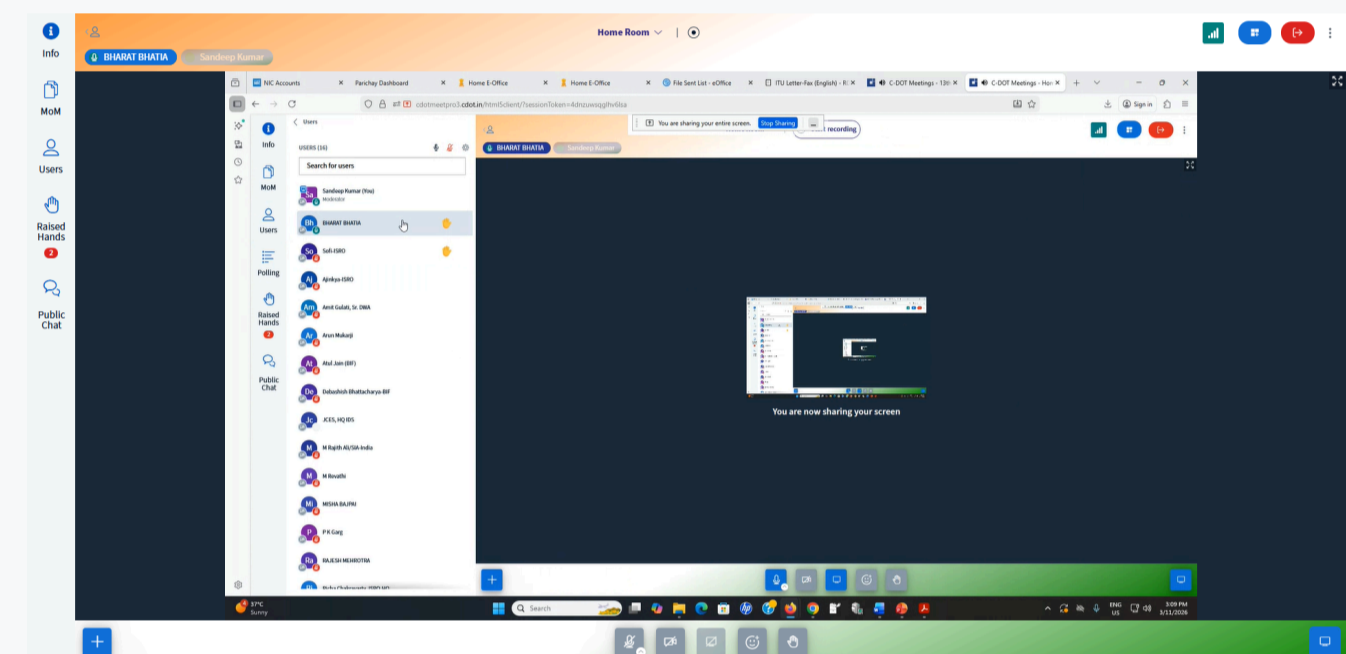
The 12th Asia-Pacific Spectrum Management Conference was held from 11-12 March, 2026 at Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Conference was hosted by the Telecommunication Regulator of Cambodia (TRC) and supported by Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the two-day event gathers top policymakers, regulators, and industry experts to shape regional spectrum strategies. Key discussions were focused on the road to WRC-27, National Spectrum Strategies and Roadmaps, Next Steps - Towards 5G Advanced and 6G, 6GHz, UHF Band, C-Band & more, D2D, EPFD and Non-Terrestrial Networks, The Future of Fixed Wireless Access and Auctions, awards and pricing strategy. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI moderated the session regarding "The Rise of Direct-to-Device Services in Asia-Pacific - Progress, Policy Options and the Road to Commercialisation".

### IAFI requested DoT to Delink Aviation Clearance from SACFA to Accelerate Approvals



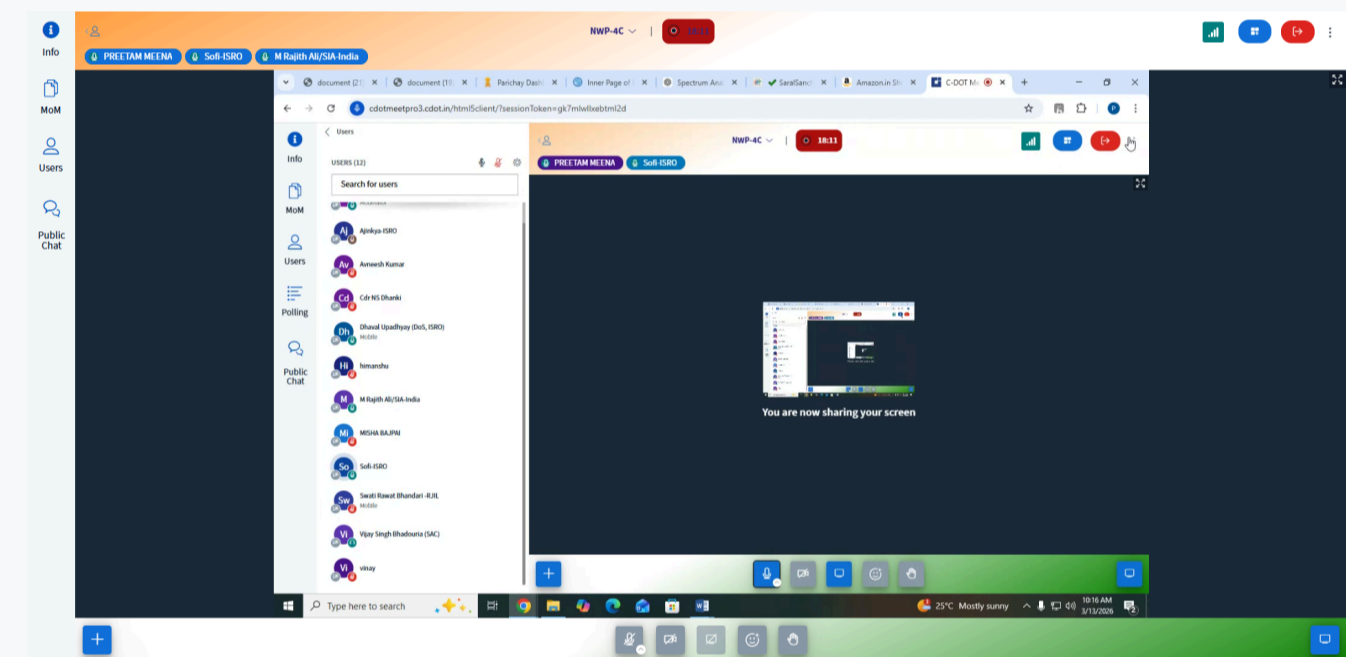
The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has requested Secretary, DoT, to streamline the approval process for telecom towers by separating aviation hazard clearances from frequency-related SACFA clearances. Currently, the WPC wing acts as an intermediary for these approvals. Applicants apply through the WPC, which then circulates the request to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Airforce. IAFI notes that while delays frequently occur at the AAI or Airforce level, the DoT often bears the blame due to this integrated system. To resolve this and improve the Ease of Doing Business, IAFI is suggested for a decentralized approach, as adopted by the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC). IAFI has suggested that the Telecom licensees should be directly responsible for obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) regarding aviation hazards from the AAI and Airforce, removing the WPC as the intermediary. The DoT should grant final spectrum approval based solely on the licensee providing proof of an aviation NOC or tower exemption, effectively doing away with the current SACFA approval mechanism. The existing Saral Sanchar portal should be utilized to register towers that have already secured their NOCs from aviation authorities. This decentralized framework will ensure that specialized agencies remain accountable for their respective domains while significantly accelerating the rollout of 4G and 5G infrastructure across the country.

### National Working Party (NWP) - 4A1 meeting



WPC wing of DoT organised 13 th NWP-4A1 virtual meeting on 11-03-2026, under the chairmanship of Ms Sofi Jebasoundaram, Associate Director, ISRO. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI and other IAFI members participated in the meeting from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where he is participating in the 12 th Asia-Pacific Spectrum Management conference. No new contribution was submitted in the meeting. Shri Sandeep Kumar, coordinator presented the four old documents regarding Agenda Item- 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4. Chair requested the participants to submit the contributions latest by 02 nd April, 2026, as last date of submission to ITU-R WP-4A is 22 nd April, 2026. Shri Bharat Bhatia informed the meeting that IAFI will submit three contributions by 18 th March, 2026. It was decided that the next meeting of the NWP-4A1 will be held on 23-03-2026 (Monday) at 1500 Hrs virtually.

### Meeting of the National Working Party (NWP) - 4C

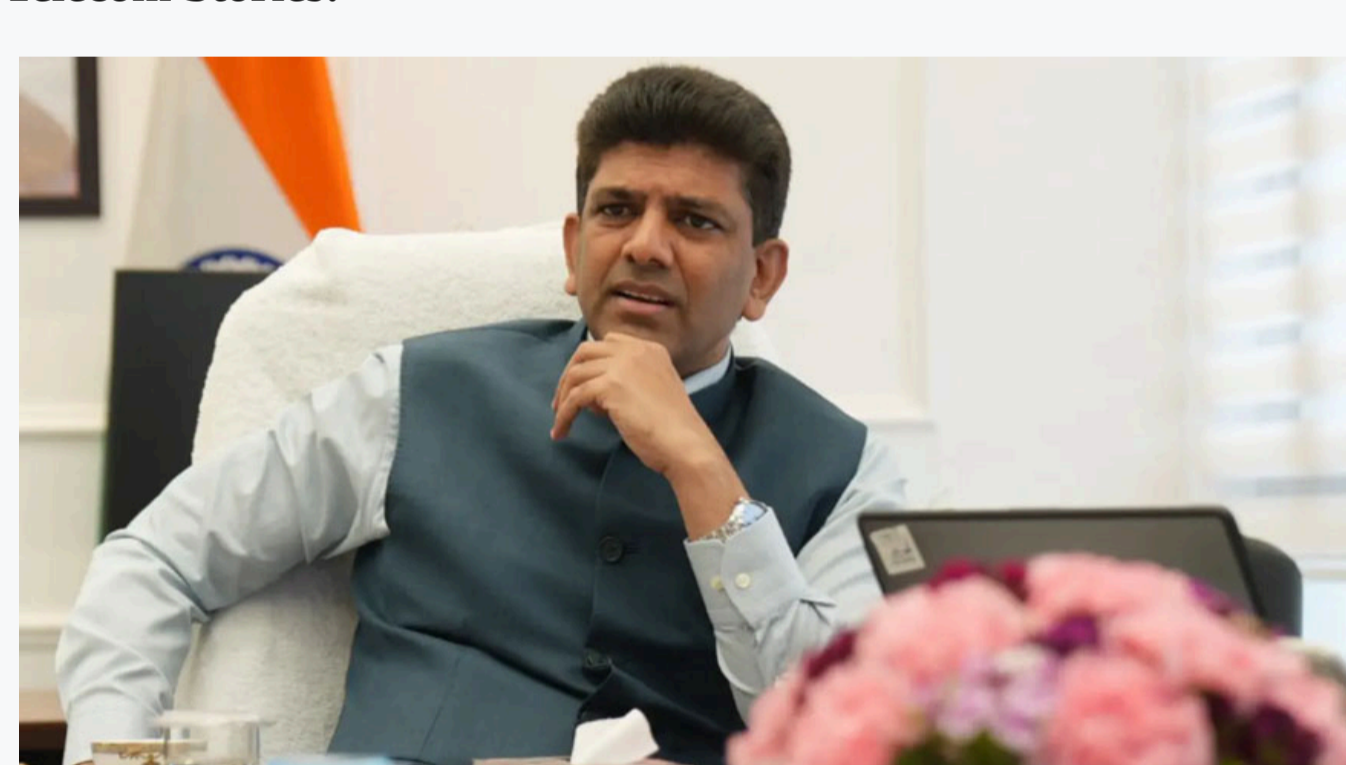


The WPC Wing organized a virtual meeting of the NWP-4C on March 13, 2026. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Sofi Jebasoundaram, Associate Director of ISRO, and coordinated by Shri Preetam Meena, AWA (IT & SACFA), WPC Wing. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, and Shri Sandil Devar attended the meeting virtually from Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The attendees discussed two documents that were circulated after the previous meeting on March 6, 2026. IAFI submitted comments on one of the documents, which Shri Bharat Bhatia presented and explained during the session. The document was discussed in detail and subsequently agreed upon by the attendees. Both documents will be circulated for final comments by March 18, 2026. The next and final NWP- 4C meeting will be held on March 21, 2026, before the documents are forwarded to the NSG.

### Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
APT: The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026	30th March - 2nd April 2026	20th March 2026
ITU: Telecommunication Development Advisory Group	07th -10th April 2026	24th March 2026
APT: The 36th Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-36)	06th - 10th April 2026	28th Mar 2026
APT: The 38th APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-38)	20th - 24th April 2026	10th April 2026

### Telecom Stories:



Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development Dr Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today said that 5G services have been rolled out in all States/ UTs across the country and presently it is available in 99.9% of the districts in the country. As on 28.02.2026, 5.23 Lakhs 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have been installed across the country. The several initiatives are being undertaken to promote the adoption of 5G use cases in telemedicine, precision agriculture, smart manufacturing, and education, while fostering the development of an indigenous 5G ecosystem and strengthening preparedness for next-generation technologies, including 6G.



India's AI strategy is based on Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of democratizing technology. It aims to address India centric challenges, create opportunities and ultimately improve the lives of citizens.

At the same time, the Government is conscious of the potential harms that may arise from AI and related technologies.

Legal safeguards are in place to prevent harm towards children:

#### 1. Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000

IT Act, 2000 and IT Rules (IT) intermediaries (social media platforms) to prevent hosting or sharing content that is harmful to children including content that is sexually explicit or promotes violence.



India is set to tighten security testing rules for equipment such as Wi-Fi routers, broadband devices and fibre network gear as it seeks to make telecom equipment safer for use in the country's internet networks, government officials and industry executives aware of the matter said. This means that telecom equipment makers such as Nokia, Ericsson, Cisco, and Tejas Networks can no longer rely solely on temporary approvals or self-declarations of compliance with security testing requirements, but will now have to clear some mandatory security checks before their products can be deployed in the country's networks.

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