

IAFI News

25th IAFI Executive Council Meeting Reviews Strong Growth, Expanding Engagement and Future Priorities



The 25th Meeting of the Executive Council (EC) of the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) was held on 10 August 2026 at the IAFI office in New Delhi, with hybrid participation, under the chairmanship of IAFI President Shri Bharat Bhatia. The meeting reviewed IAFI's growing engagement in international telecommunications standardisation and national policy matters, its membership growth, recent activities and its plans for the remainder of 2026. The EC noted IAFI's active participation across ITU- R, ITU-T and ITU-D Study Groups and APT activities, including APG, AWG, SATRC and preparations for APT PP-26. IAFI also continues to contribute actively to national policy and regulatory processes through submissions to DoT, TRAI and TEC, participation in stakeholder consultations, WPC National Working Groups and TEC National Study Groups. The Council welcomed the addition of two new Lifetime Members, taking IAFI's total membership to 181, comprising 128 individual paid members, 24 honorary members and 29 corporate members. The meeting also reviewed IAFI's extensive programme of activities since the previous EC meeting, including initiatives on AI and the future of society, cyber frauds and digital arrests. WRC-27 preparations, 6 GHz Wi-Fi, 6G, space policy and satellite communications. Of particular significance was the successful 3rd India Space Policy Conference (ISPC-26) held in July 2026, which brought together policymakers, regulators and global industry leaders to discuss satellite spectrum, Non-GSO regulations, space sustainability, satellite-5G/6G integration and Direct-to-Device connectivity. IAFI's international engagement was also highlighted, including its participation in APG27-3 in Sapporo, Japan, where IAFI hosted a reception for Heads of Delegations and provided an opportunity for regional delegates to interact and exchange views. EC meeting reaffirmed IAFI's growing role as an important platform connecting Indian industry, policymakers and the international ICT community, with a continued focus on spectrum, satellite communications, 5G, 6G, AI, WiFi, cybersecurity and global telecommunications standardisation. Looking ahead, the EC confirmed that the IAFI Annual General Meeting will be held on 23 September 2026 at CSOL, New Delhi, followed by a special programme on 6G Spectrum, with a particular focus on the 6G Golden Band. The meeting also noted that IAFI's biennial elections for the 2026-2028 term will be held alongside the AGM.

IAFI Contribution to NWP-6 Meeting



The first meeting of the National Working Party-6 (NWP-6), corresponding to WP-6A, 6B, and 6C of the SG-6/ITU-R, was held on July 15, 2026. IAFI submitted a contribution detailing a basic proposal regarding the "Utilization of IoT-Enabled Roadside Display and Disaster Warning Boards in Rural, Remote, and Hilly Terrains via Terrestrial Broadcasting." This contribution was discussed thoroughly by all members. It was agreed that IAFI will draft a formal proposal for submission to the upcoming WP-6A meeting on behalf of India. IAFI has now submitted a formal contribution to NWP-6, for onward submission to ITU-R/WP-6A on behalf of India. Next meeting of NWP-6 likely to be held on August 18, 2026.

IAFI urges DoT to amend Satellite Gateway Rules to include Existing Licensees



Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, has written a letter to the Chairman, Digital Communication Commission (DoT) requesting an amendment to the recently issued Telecom Rule G.S.R.-513 (E), dated 23 July 2026. IAFI welcomes the notification, which permits the use of Indian Satellite Gateways to serve customers outside the country. IAFI written number of letters to all top brasses of DoT, including Hon'ble MoC and MoS (c), Secretary and Members, DCC. This progressive step positions India to become global SatCom hub and adds a vital lever to the country's disaster diplomacy efforts. However, the enabling provisions currently restrict this cross-border connectivity strictly to "new authorized entities" subject to Central Government permission. IAFI has urged the DoT to amend this language to also allow existing licensees to provide feeder-link connectivity to satellites serving foreign customers. In its letter, IAFI highlighted that multiple NGSO operators have already heavily invested in essential ground infrastructure within India. Because of the current wording, these valuable resources are lying idle, causing significant economic loss. To prevent further delays and inefficiencies, IAFI strongly advocates permitting existing licensees to utilize their Indian gateways for international services without being mandated to migrate to new authorizations.

CAG Performance Audit Report of BharatNet



A CAG performance audit on BharatNet Phase II, tabled in Parliament on August 12, 2026, reveals that despite deploying network infrastructure to over 96.7% of targeted Gram Panchayats (GPs), the project is failing to bridge the rural digital divide. The report highlighted severe operational inefficiencies, noting that as of November 2025, only 33.20% of service-ready GPs were actually operational. Plagued by implementation delays of two to six years and high maintenance hurdles, such as an average 17-day restoration time for frequent fibre cuts, the Rs 398.88 billion project has struggled to generate revenue or deliver consistent services. While states like Gujarat and Punjab performed well (>90% operational GPs), the CAG warned that systemic delays nationwide are undermining BharatNet's core socio-economic goals of delivering digital healthcare, education, and e-governance to rural India.

80 th Happy Independence Day – 15 th August, 2026

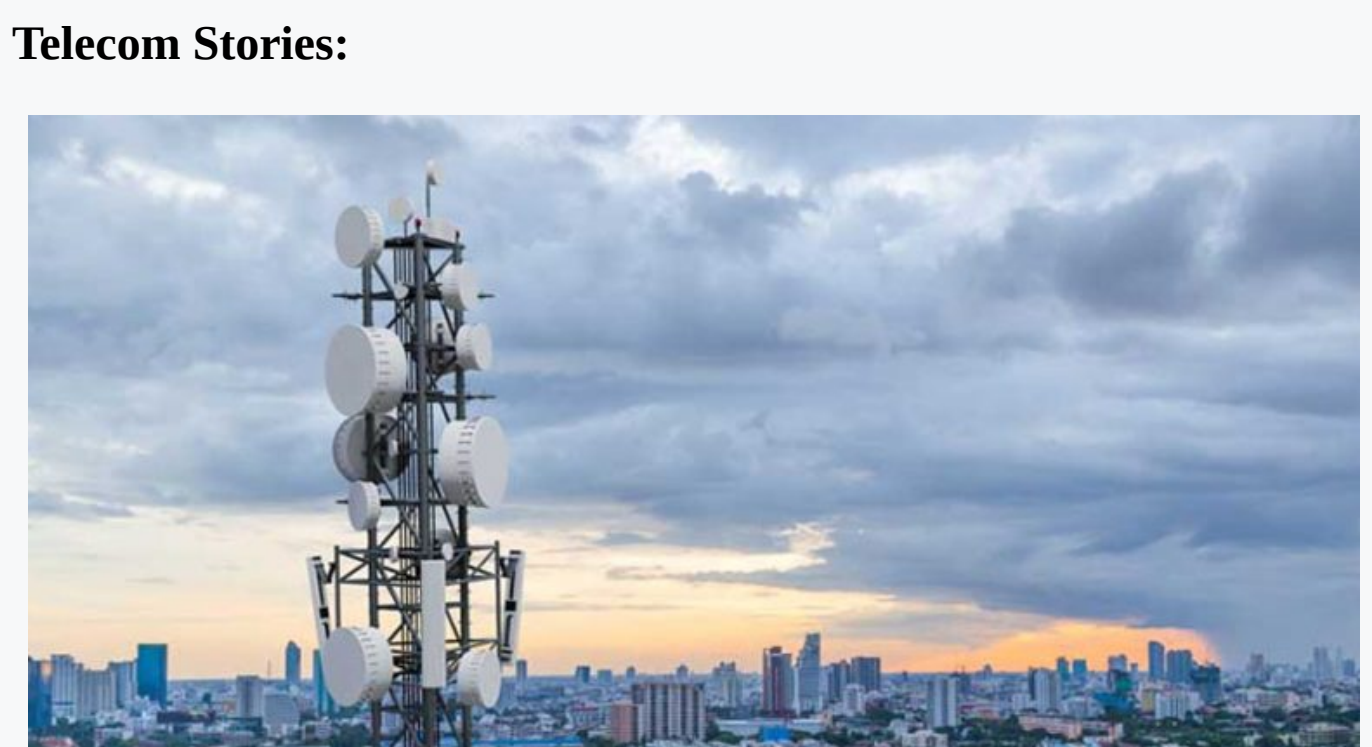


On August 15, 2026, India celebrated its 80th Independence Day, honoring the sacrifices of our freedom fighters while looking forward to a progressive future. IAFI wishes our nation continued progress, peace, and prosperity. Happy Independence Day to all.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

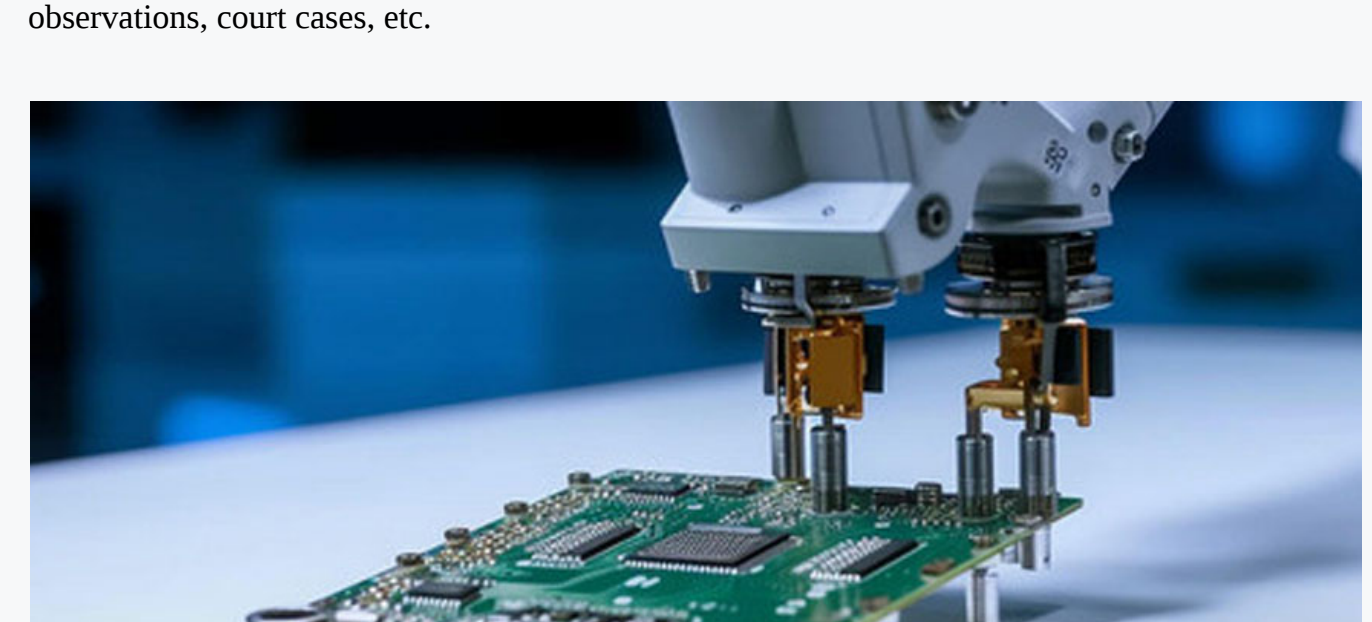
Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI Contribution
APT: The 5th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (APT PP26-5)	24th - 28th August 2026	14th August 2026	-
APT: The 37th Meeting of APT Wireless Group (AWG-37)	07th - 11th September 2026	28th August 2026	-
ITU-R: Working Party 7B (WP 7B) - Space radiocommunication applications	14th - 24th September 2026	02nd September 2026	-
ITU-R: Working Party 7C (WP 7C) - Remote sensing systems	14th - 24th September 2026	02nd September 2026	-
ITU-R: Working Party 7D (WP 7D) - Radio astronomy	14th - 24th September 2026	02nd September 2026	-
ITU-R: Working Party 6B (WP 6B) - Broadcast service assembly and access	21st - 25th September 2026	09th September 2026	-
ITU-R: Working Party 6A (WP 6A) - Terrestrial broadcasting delivery	22nd - 30th September 2026	10th September 2026	-
ITU-R: Working Party 6C (WP 6C) - Programme production and quality assessment	28th September - 01st October 2026	16th September 2026	-
ITU-R: Working Party 5D (WP 5D) - IMT Systems	28th September - 08th October 2026	16th September 2026	31st August 2026
ITU-R: Study Group 6 (SG 6) - Broadcasting Service	02nd October 2026	20th September 2026	-
APT: The 27th Meeting of South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-27)	20th - 22nd October 2026	10th October 2026	-

Telecom Stories:



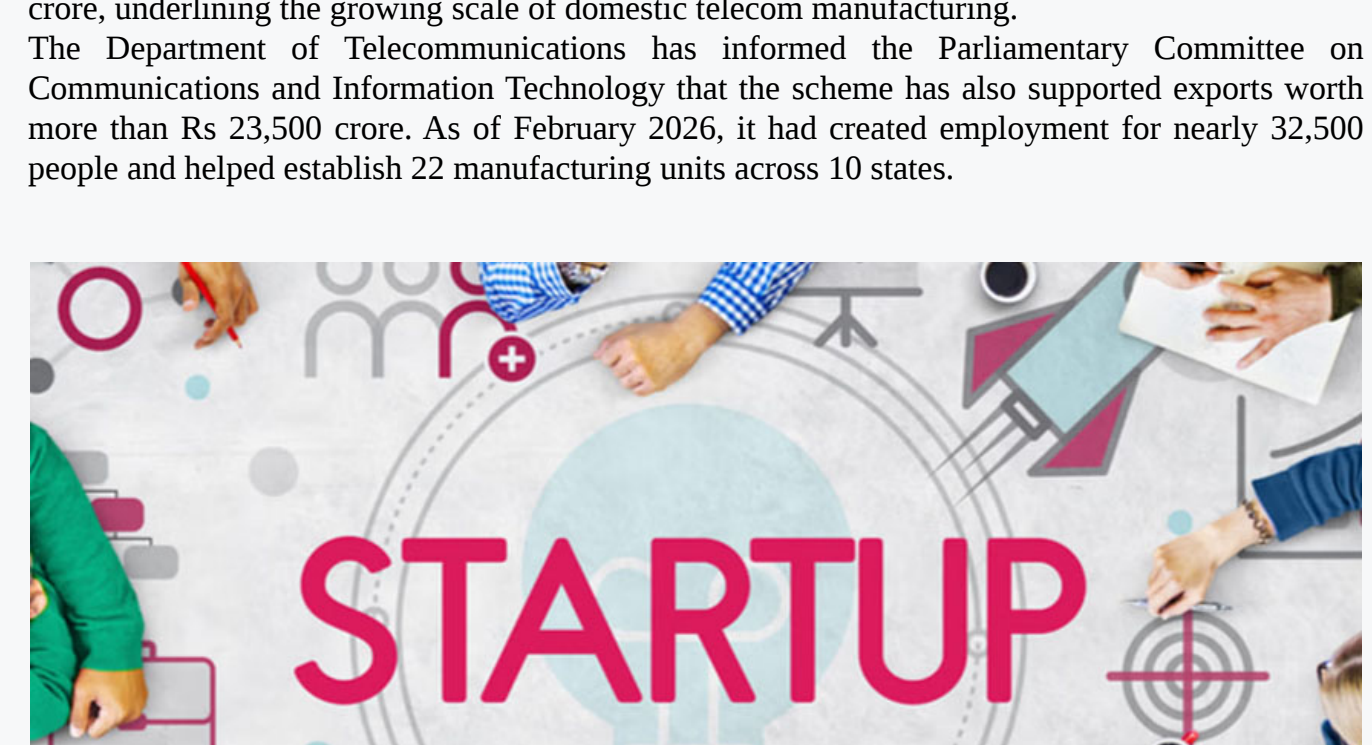
Telecom operators cumulatively owe the government over Rs 1.4 lakh crore in adjusted gross revenue dues as on March 31, 2026, Parliament was informed on Thursday.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Telecom Pannasani Chandra Sekhar, however, said the total AGR (adjusted gross revenue) dues are subject to revision on the basis of the representation by TSP (telecom service providers), departmental assessments, audit observations, court cases, etc.



India's production-linked incentive scheme for telecom and networking products has attracted investments exceeding Rs 5,200 crore and generated cumulative sales of around Rs 1.1 lakh crore, underlining the growing scale of domestic telecom manufacturing.

The Department of Telecommunications has informed the Parliamentary Committee on Communications and Information Technology that the scheme has also supported exports worth more than Rs 23,500 crore. As of February 2026, it had created employment for nearly 32,500 people and helped establish 22 manufacturing units across 10 states.



Indian semiconductor start-ups have raised approximately \$206 million across 51 funding rounds since 2022, as investor interest shifts towards fewer but larger bets on homegrown chip companies, according to the Indian Semiconductor Startup Landscape 2026, released by venture capital firm Speciale Invest in partnership with the Startup Policy Forum (SPF).

Follow us on:-



ITU-APT Foundation Of India 504, Fifth Floor World Trade Center (Behind Lalit Hotel)

Barakhamba Road New Delhi- 110001, India.

Contact No.: +91-11-45005163, 7017210403, 9999797700 - Website: iafi.in

If you do not want to receive this mailer, you can [unsubscribe here](#) from our mailing list.