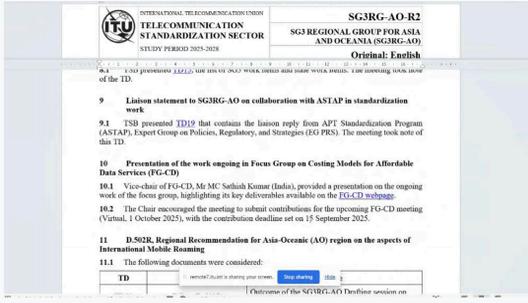


51st ITU-R Working Party-5D Meeting



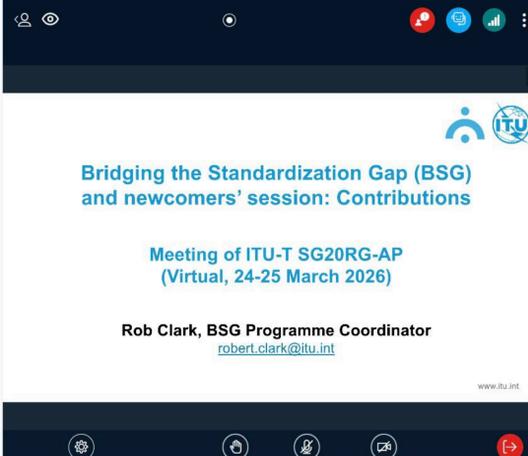
The 51st meeting of ITU-R Working Party 5D (WP 5D) was convened in a hybrid format from 3-12 February 2026 at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting witnessed robust physical and virtual participation, 464 representatives from 71 Member States and 171 delegates from various Sector Members and organizations. A total of 21 delegates from India participated in the meeting through both physical and virtual modes. Prominent members attending physically the meeting on behalf of India were - Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI; Shri Gulab Chand, JWA; Shri Jitendra Singh; Shri Sendil Kumar Devar; and Dr. Puneet Rathore. The meeting considered a total of 211 documents, including the Chairman's Report from the 50th meeting. The primary focus remained on WRC-27 Agenda Items 1.7 and 1.13. Agenda Item 1.7 proved to be the most challenging area of study, covering sharing and compatibility for potential IMT allocations in the 4400-4800 MHz, 7125-8400 MHz, and 14.8-15.35 GHz bands. This item alone attracted nearly 100 contributions, with 64 documents specifically addressing the 7125-8400 MHz band. Significant progress was achieved regarding the roadmap to 6G, marked by the finalization of two pivotal reports concerning the IMT-2030 Evaluation and the IMT-2030 Process. Contributions regarding Air-to-Ground (ATG) non-safety communications and Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) were reviewed, notably, the meeting agreed to dispatch a Liaison Statement (LS) to 3GPP regarding updates to PPDR specifications. IAFI presented five contributions, all of which were discussed in detail. Regarding the contribution on FWA-BB (Fixed Wireless Access - Broadband), the meeting agreed to establish a separate Drafting Group (DG) to address the topic. Furthermore, as this contribution was originally allocated to the Sub-Working Group (SWG) on "National Experience," it was decided to rename the SWG, and suggestions for a new title were invited from members. The meeting expressed concern regarding the time consumed in presenting contributions, noting that only three WP 5D meetings remain before the CPM text must be finalized in June 2027. This text is critical for the WRC-27, which is likely to be held in November 2027 in Shanghai, China. The next meeting (52nd WP 5D) is scheduled to be held from 27 May to 06 June 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland.

SG3RG-AO Meeting



The meeting of the ITU-T Study Group 3 Regional Group for Asia and Oceania (SG3RG-AO) was convened virtually on 10 February 2026 (09:00-12:00 CET). IAFI participated and presented two contributions during the session. One was regarding the IPv4 to IPv6 Migration, as IAFI proposed discontinuing the survey questionnaire regarding IPv6 implementation. The rationale provided was that IPv6 deployment has transitioned from the "awareness phase" to the "execution phase." Furthermore, country-specific implementation statistics are already regularly available via APNIC Labs (the Regional Internet Registry). The members agreed to this proposal. Regarding DSTR-LAN - contribution was discussed in detail. Currently only India and China have submitted inputs, the Chairman requested other administrations to provide their country-specific details for inclusion in the report. It was also agreed to delete the name of India appearing in the title of the baseline text, as China has already submitted country-specific proposal. Delegate from China expressed willingness to join IAFI in improving the text for submission to the next meeting. Date, time and venue of the next meeting will be published on SG3RG-AO website in due time.

ITU-T SG20RG-AP meeting



IAFI participated in the special meeting (Contribution Clinic) of the ITU-T Study Group 20 Regional Group for Asia and the Pacific (SG20RG-AP) took place virtually on 11-02-2026, from 1000 to 1100 hours (Geneva time), to develop basic awareness for submitting and presenting the contributions in the various ITU Meetings. It was also informed that SG20RG-AP meeting will be held from 24-25 March, 2026 and last date of submission of contribution is 11 March, 2026.

IAFI letter to TRAI regarding renewal of incoming International Call Termination Charges



Following the release of TRAI's Consultation Paper on Interconnection Matters (November 10, 2025), an Open House Discussion was conducted on January 28, 2026. Discussions heavily focused on International Termination Charges (ITC), with stakeholders arguing that the current rates of ₹0.35-₹0.65 are unsustainable due to forex fluctuations and infrastructure overheads. Acknowledging these concerns, Dr. M.P. Tangirala, Member (TRAI), invited further written submissions. Accordingly, IAFI has drafted this proposal to address the urgent need for ITC revision.

Supreme Court ruling regarding ownership of spectrum



In a landmark ruling on February 13, 2026, the Supreme Court established that Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) hold no ownership rights over spectrum. The Court clarified that spectrum cannot be treated as an asset during insolvency or liquidation proceedings, as licensees acquire no proprietary interest in the frequencies they utilize. Emphasizing the 'Public Trust Doctrine,' the Court held that spectrum is a finite, scarce natural resource owned by the people of India, with legal title vested exclusively in the Union of India as the public's trustee.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU: Working Party 7B (WP 7B) - Space radiocommunication applications	2nd - 12th March 2026	18th Feb 2026
ITU: Working Party 7C (WP 7C) - Remote sensing systems	2nd - 12th March 2026	18th Feb 2026
ITU: Working Party 7D (WP 7D) - Radio astronomy	2nd - 12th March 2026	18th Feb 2026
ITU: Study Group 7 (SG 7)	13th March 2026	1st March 2026
ITU: Collaboration on ITS Communication Standards	16th March 2026	03rd March 2026
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 - 19th April 2026	28th Mar 2026
APT: The 38th APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-38)	20th - 24th April 2026	20th April 2026

Telecom Stories:



Jyotiraditya Scindia has stated that the Department of Telecommunications' risk-based, AI-enabled interventions have prevented potential telecom-linked financial fraud of over ₹1,400 crore, largely through the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) operating on the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP). In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Scindia explained that banks and UPI providers reported this figure on the basis of transactions that were declined or subjected to alerts and warnings after the associated mobile numbers were flagged as risky by FRI. FRI classifies mobile numbers into medium, high, and very high-risk buckets using inputs from banks, telecom operators, cybercrime portals and citizen reports, allowing real-time checks before digital payments go through. The FRI engine runs under the umbrella of DIP, a secure data-exchange layer that connects telecom operators, financial institutions, police and central agencies so that suspicious numbers and action-taken reports move quickly between all stakeholders.



Calling upon India's technology sector to reset its ambitions toward a trillion-dollar opportunity by 2035, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal today said the industry must embrace reimagination to stay ahead in an era defined by artificial intelligence, data centres and clean energy. Launching the NITI Frontier Tech Hub's roadmap report titled 'Reimagination Ahead' in New Delhi, the Minister said India should target at least 10 GW of data centre capacity by 2030 and position itself as a global hub for AI-driven technology services. He emphasized that the future lies in applied AI, reskilling at scale, domestic value creation and retaining talent within the country.



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 through the joint statement titled the New Delhi Declaration at the Bharat 6G Symposium 2025, the international bodies endorsed the core principles for future 6G networks, these include, among others:

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