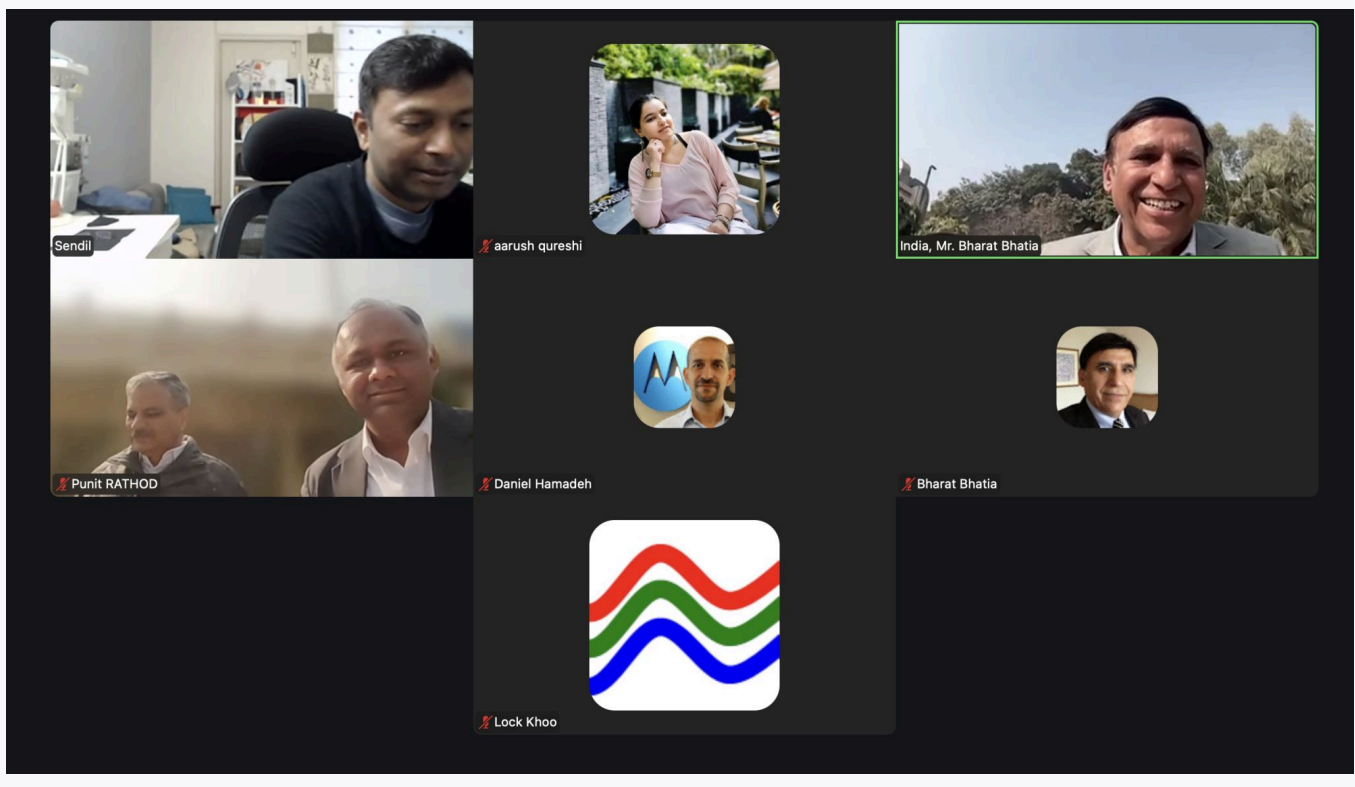


IAFI News

IAFI Radio Group Meeting



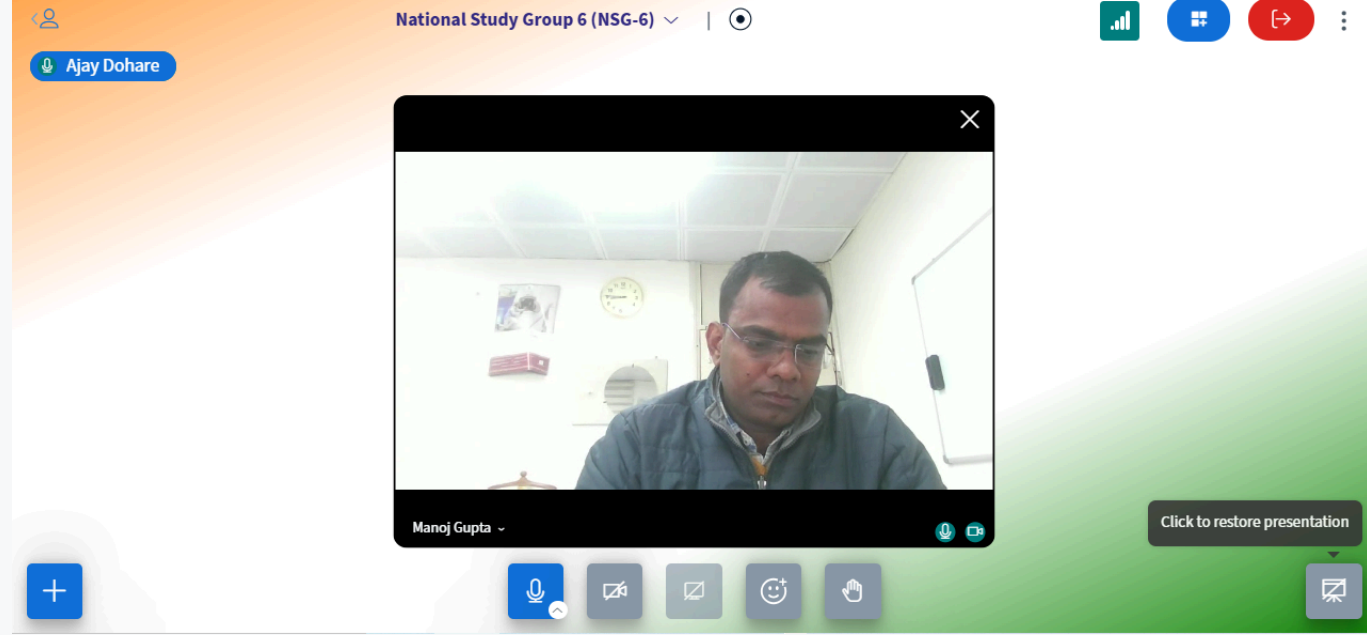
The Radio Group meeting of the IAFI was held at CSOI, KG Marg, New Delhi on 15th January, 2026 in a hybrid mode. The primary objective of the meeting was to finalize inputs documents for the upcoming ITU-R WP-5D meeting in Geneva (Feb 3-12, 2026). Many IAFI members joined the meeting physically, while many other joined virtually. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI chaired the meeting and welcomed all the participants. After detailed deliberations, five documents were finalized including (1) WRC-27 preparations regarding Agenda Item 1.13, Technical studies related to the coexistence of IMT and Mobile-Satellite Service (DC-MSS-IMT); (2) Agenda Item 1.7, further updates to the draft CPM text regarding sharing and compatibility studies; (3) Revisions of ITU-R Reports - M.2528 regarding revisions concerning the capabilities of IMT for multimedia applications; (4) ITU-R Report M.2291- further updates to the technical characteristics of IMT for terrestrial broadcasting and (5) Fixed Wireless Access - further updates to the Working Document regarding FWA.

The 24th IAFI Executive Council Meeting



The 24th Meeting of the Executive Council of the IAFI was held on January 15, 2026, at CSOI, KG Marg, New Delhi. The session was well-attended by the majority of EC members, including key leadership figures: Shri Bharat Bhatia (President), Shri T.R. Dua (Chairman), Shri S.P. Purwar (Co-chairman); Permanent Invitee - Shri S.N. Gupta (Secretary General), and Shri H.C. Soni (Vice-President, Finance). Vice-chairmen Shri Jitendra Singh, Shri P.K. Garg, and Prof. N.K. Goel were also present, supported by the IAFI Secretariat team comprising Ms. Aarush Qureshi, Shri Ashish Chaudhary, and Shri Misha Bajpai. Chairman, IAFI welcomed all the members and commended Shri Bharat Bhatia for his sincerity and dedication to IAFI, as now well recognized in Telecom sector. Shri Bharat Bhatia in his opening remark, expressed his gratitude for the Council's continued support and the members' individual contributions to the Foundation's success. He provided a status update on the organization's growth, noting that the current membership stands at 179, comprising 150 individual and 29 corporate members. The Council reviewed IAFI's extensive engagement in policy and standardization. This includes active participation in ITU (ITU-R, ITU-T, ITU-D) and APT (APG, AWG) meetings, as well as consistent advocacy through submissions to TRAI and DoT/TEC. The President also highlighted the successful hosting of ISMC-25 in December 2025. Concluding the session, Shri Bhatia put forward a call to action, requesting members to organize independent events at their own level to further the Foundation's objectives. He confirmed that IAFI would fully sponsor the logistical costs for these events, including venue and catering expenses.

Meeting of the Task Group for NSG-6



A virtual meeting of the Task Group constituted by National Study Group 6 (NSG-6) was convened on January 14, 2026, to finalize contributions for the upcoming ITU-R Working Party 6A (WP-6A) meeting. The session commenced with opening remarks from Shri Rajeev Kumar, DDG (Akashvani) and Chairman of NWP-6, followed by Shri Manoj Gupta, Coordinator of NSG-6. The primary agenda item was the discussion of a contribution submitted by IAFI proposing revisions to Report ITU-R BT.2049-8. The document was discussed in detail by the members; however, a consensus could not be reached during the session. As Shri Jitendra Singh, Sr. Director at Qualcomm, and Shri Puneet Rathore, Lead Technical Assistant, Qualcomm were unable to attend the entire meeting, it was decided to solicit their views via email before finalizing the group's position.

Modernization of Public Safety Networks (PPDR) and the 700 MHz dispute



The Government of India's ₹20,000-crore initiative to modernize public safety and disaster-response networks faces potential delays due to an emerging inter-ministerial standoff regarding spectrum allocation. The Directorate of Coordination Police Wireless (DCPW), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, is seeking 10 MHz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band. The DCPW argues this band is critical for a nationwide network due to its superior propagation characteristics, which allow for deep building penetration and extensive rural coverage with fewer towers, thereby ensuring CAPEX efficiency. Furthermore, the mature global ecosystem for LTE/5G in the 700 MHz band ensures the availability of cost-effective devices. However, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) maintains that the band is currently reserved and cannot be assigned at this stage. This deadlock threatens to impede the necessary transition from fragmented legacy infrastructure, which lacks the bandwidth to support modern mission-critical applications. A next-generation network is imperative to enable real-time video feeds from drones and body-worn cameras, high-resolution mapping, and AI-driven analytics. As the project accelerates, this administrative friction raises fundamental questions regarding how scarce national resources should be prioritized when public safety is at stake.

India Surpasses USA in 5G Adoption

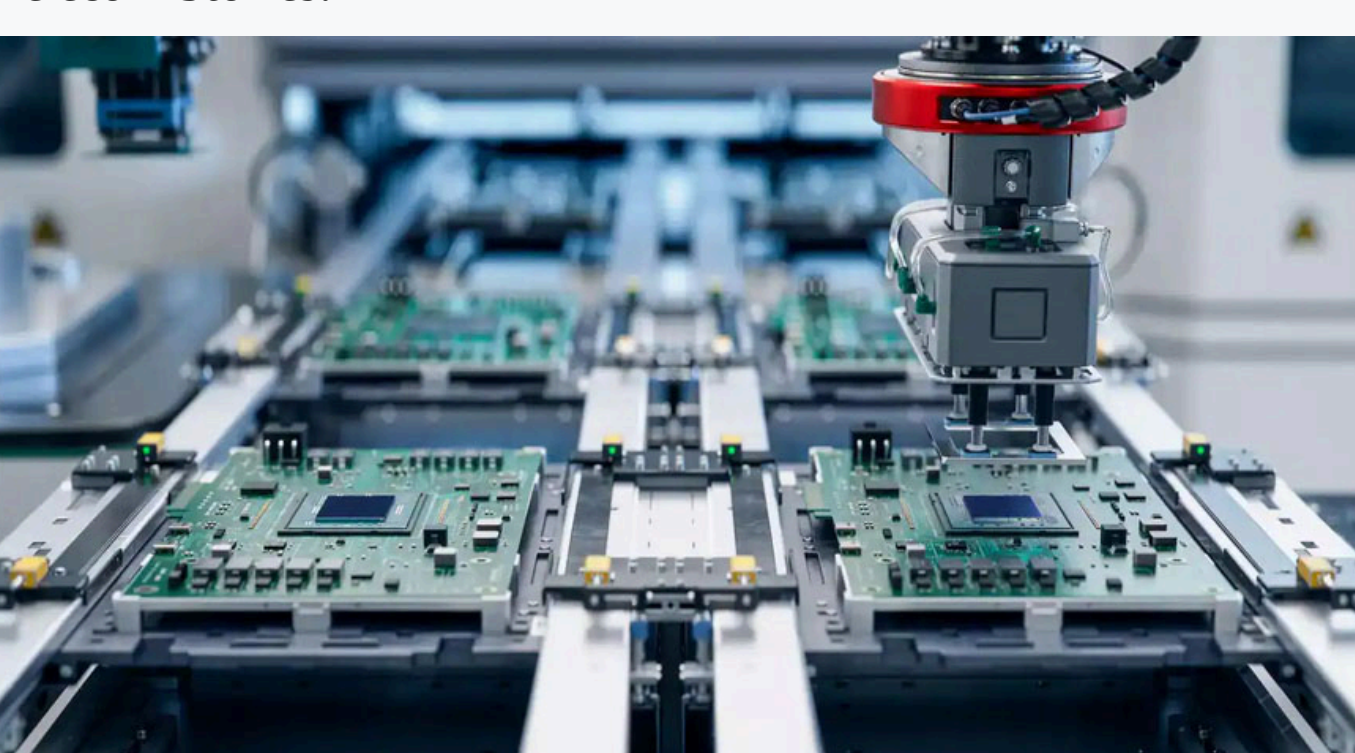


According to the Union Minister of Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, India has now surpassed 400 million 5G users, solidifying its position as the world's second-largest 5G market after China. This milestone, achieved in just over three years since the commercial launch in 2022, has exceeded earlier industry projections which forecasted 394 million subscribers by the end of 2025. 5G coverage is currently at an all-time high, with services available in all States and Union Territories, covering 99.9% of districts. As of October 31, 2025, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have successfully installed 5.08 lakh (508,000) 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) across both rural and urban regions of the country.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI Meeting
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026	28th - 29th Jan 2026	18th Jan 2026	-
ITU: Working Party 5D (WP 5D) - IMT Systems	03rd Feb - 12th Feb 2026	22nd Jan 2026	20th Jan 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	-
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:



MeitY is pressing for a higher budget for the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme because industry response and investment interest have significantly overshoot the scheme's original outlay of ₹22,919 crore.

ECMS was notified in April 2025 with a total allocation of ₹22,919 crore and a six-year implementation window, plus an optional one-year gestation period. The scheme's aim is to build a robust domestic ecosystem for electronics components by attracting large investments across key parts of the value chain and more tightly integrating India into global electronics supply chains.

The scheme uses a differentiated incentive structure, offering turnover-linked incentives for major component and sub-assembly categories (segments A, B and E) while providing capital-expenditure incentives for supply-chain and capital-equipment projects (segment D). A hybrid model applies to certain advanced components, including HDI and flexible PCBs in segment C, allowing a mix of turnover-based and capex support to suit technology-intensive investments.



Telecom regulator TRAI is building a Digital Connectivity Rating framework that will function as a star-rating style platform for buildings and large campuses, chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti has said. The system is designed to benchmark how "digitally ready" a property is on parameters such as in-building mobile coverage, fibre readiness, broadband and Wi-Fi performance, and the quality of indoor infrastructure like ducts, cabling and small-cell deployments.

Under the Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024, the platform will enable empanelled Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies to evaluate projects and assign ratings that can be displayed to buyers, tenants and enterprises, similar to energy-efficiency labels. The objective is to nudge developers to integrate robust digital infrastructure at the design stage, provide users with clear visibility into indoor connectivity quality, and align real estate practices with NDCP-2018 and Digital India goals.



Principal Controller of Communication Accounts, Department of Telecom (DoT) is organizing Telecom Pensioners Jeevan Praman Camps during the month of January, 2026 in the premises O/o Pr. CCA Delhi, Delhi Sanchar Lekha Bhawan, Prasad Nagar, New Delhi-110005, Extn. Counter at Eastern Court Janpath, New Delhi and premises of MTNL/BSNL at various locations across Delhi & NCR for the convenience of Pensioners.

Pensioners are requested to attend these camps and avail facilities as per their convenience along with relevant documents on the spot verification of Life Certificate.

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

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