

IAFI News

Indian Government delicensures Low Power and Very Low Power Wi-Fi in Lower 6GHz (5925-6425 MHz)



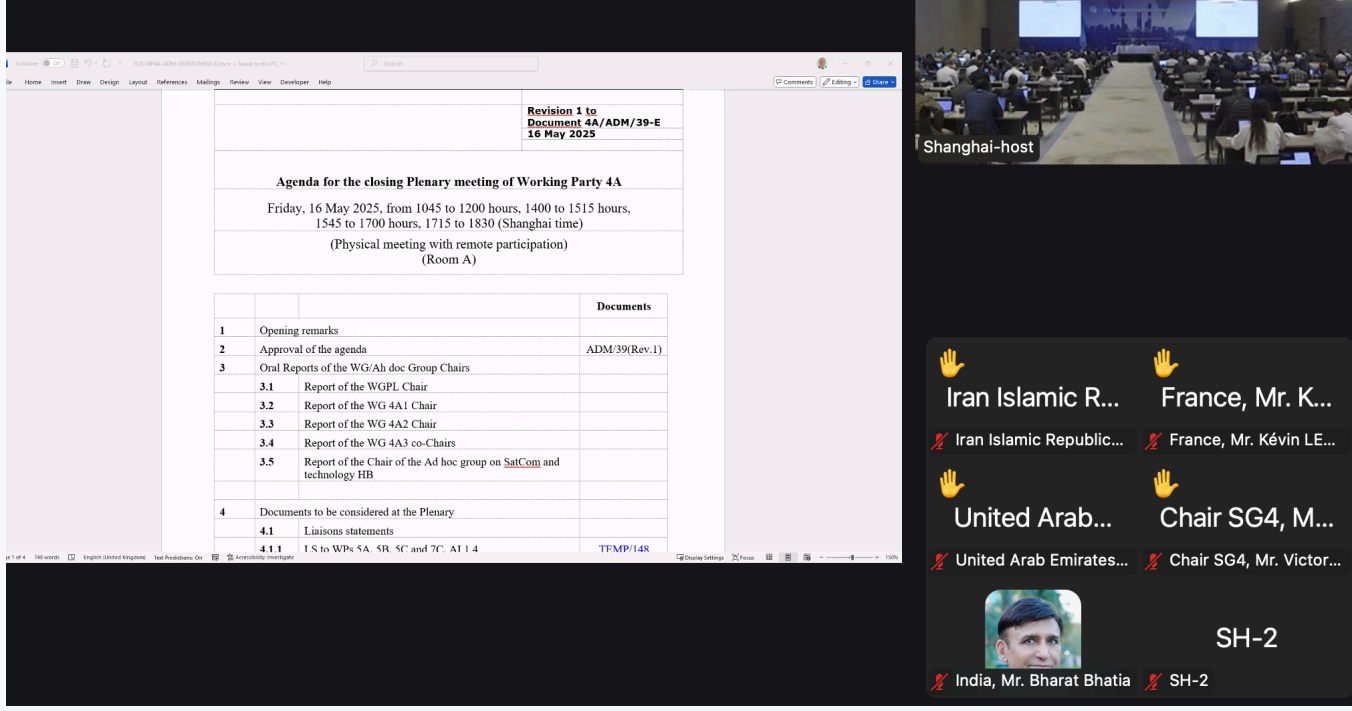
In a significant notification dated May 16, 2025, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issued rules exempting the operation of Low Power Indoor (LPI) and Very Low Power Outdoor (VLPO) Wireless Access Systems, including Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs), in the 5925-6425 MHz band from licensing requirements. Consequently, no authorization or frequency assignment will be needed for establishing, maintaining, working with, possessing, or dealing in wireless equipment operating within this lower 6 GHz band for these specific power categories. The draft rules are open for public feedback and suggestions until June 15, 2025.

The IAFI has been actively campaigning for the de-licensing of the 6 GHz band for the past two years, consistently raising this crucial matter across various platforms. This advocacy involved extensive correspondence with key government and regulatory bodies, including the PMO, the Minister of Communications, the Secretary and Telecom Members of the DCC/DoT, and TRAI. IAFI's persistent efforts towards this goal have now reached a significant stage with the DoT releasing the draft rules on May 16, 2025, for the unlicensed use of the lower 6 GHz band, which is currently open for public feedback.

The proposed rules specify that the unlicensed use will be applicable to Low Power Indoor (LPI) systems, Very Low Power Outdoor (VLPO) systems, on a non-interference, non-protection, and shared basis. The draft rules also outline specific technical parameters, including Maximum Power Spectral Density (PSD) as 5 dBm/MHz for LPI and -5 dBm/MHz for VLPO, Maximum Equivalent Isotropically Radiated Power (e.i.r.p.) - 30 dBm for LPI and 14 dBm for VLPO, Maximum Emission Bandwidth - 320 MHz for both LPI and VLPO and Maximum Out-of-Band Emissions as -27 dBm/MHz for both. In case of harmful interference with licensed systems, users of unlicensed devices may be directed to relocate, reduce power, or cease operations after due process.

De-licensing the 6 GHz band is a pivotal step towards widespread adoption of advanced Wi-Fi technologies like Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7. These next-generation standards offer several key enhancements: significantly higher data throughput and faster speeds compared to previous generations; lower latency, crucial for real-time applications such as online gaming, video conferencing, and AR/VR; increased capacity, enabling seamless connectivity for more devices in dense environments; wider channels (up to 320 MHz, and contiguous spectrum of the 6 GHz band), leading to greater bandwidth and improved performance for demanding applications; and reduced congestion, as the less crowded 6 GHz spectrum minimizes interference, resulting in a more stable and reliable Wi-Fi experience. <https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/IAFI-welcomes-the-government-of-Indias-decision-to-delicense-lower-6-GHz-band.jpg>

Meeting of the Working Party 4A at Shanghai, China



The 56th meeting of ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP-4A) convened in Shanghai, China, from May 5 to 16, 2025. WP-4A focuses on the efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for the Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS) and Broadcasting-Satellite Service (BSS). Shri Bharat Bhatia (President, IAFI) represented the Indian delegation with in-person attendance, while several other IAFI members participated virtually.

The 56th WP-4A meeting addressed an unprecedented workload, with a total of 220 contributions under discussion. Furthermore, the 97th and 98th reports of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) meeting, along with the 32nd report of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) meeting, were presented and thoroughly examined. Two detailed reports from the Chairman of Study Group 4 were also presented and discussed.

Following extensive discussions, the various Working Groups developed 61 temporary documents, encompassing Working Documents, Work Plans, Liaison Statements (LS), and various reports. Chair, WP-4A3 attached a list of 11 candidate Working Document, where consensus could not be reached during the meeting. These documents will be further discussed at the next WP-4A meeting scheduled for October 2025. The details of the progress made by the individual Working Groups are as follows:

S. No.	Working Group	Documents Developed	Draft Working Documents	Draft Work Plan	Draft LS/LS/Others
1	AHG on Sat Comm and Tech Handbook	3	1	1	1
2	WG of Plenary	4	2	1	1
3	WG 4A1	17	12	2	3
4	WG 4A2	21	11	1	9
5	WG 4A3	16	14	1	1
	Total	61	40 (including 11 candidate WD)	6	15 (7-LS & 8-others)

Several members proposed that future meetings of WP-4A, WP-4B, and WP-4C should be held in Geneva, ensuring no overlap with Study Group 5 meetings. The Chair announced that the next WP-4A meeting is scheduled for Geneva, Switzerland, from October 27 to November 6, 2025. The WP-4C meeting will take place from October 15 to 24, 2025, and the WP-4B meeting will be held from October 22 to 28, 2025. All these meetings are planned to be in Geneva.

Press release by IAFI regarding TRAI recommendation



The IAFI (ITU-APT Foundation of India) has released a press statement welcoming the recent recommendations from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding the allocation of spectrum for commercial satellite communication services, encompassing both geostationary (GSO) and non-geostationary (NGSO) systems. These landmark recommendations bring long-overdue clarity to a crucial regulatory gap and are poised to unlock the true potential of India's satellite communications sector. The press release highlights the importance of these recommendations in fostering the growth of India's satellite communications sector and ensuring a fair and level playing field for all stakeholders. IAFI commends TRAI's vision in ensuring a level playing field, fostering industry confidence, and promoting growth through fair, administratively guided processes. The recommendations are in line with global best practices and will serve as a major catalyst for next-generation connectivity across India, particularly in remote, rural, and underserved regions.

Welcoming the recommendations, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI stated that TRAI has demonstrated exemplary leadership in resolving a long-pending issue that had hampered the growth of satellite communications in India. These recommendations strike the right balance between fostering innovation, promoting competition, and protecting national interest. This clarity will accelerate investments in NGSO and GSO satellite systems and will be instrumental in bridging the digital divide, especially in remote and underserved areas. <https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/iafi-welcomes-trais-recommendations-on-satellite-spectrum-assignment/>

World Telecom Day -17 th May, 2025



World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) was observed globally on May 17, 2025, under the theme "Why Gender Equality in Digital Transformation Matters." This annual commemoration marks the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on May 17, 1865, and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention.

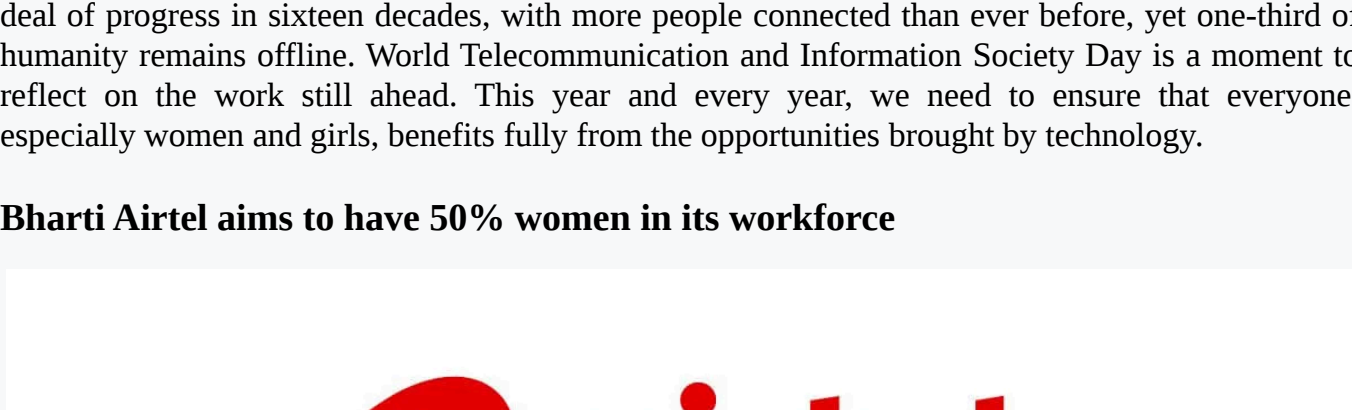
IAFI message on the WTISD was conveyed by Shri Satyen Gupta, Secretary General IAFI, in an event chaired by Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI in New Delhi and organized by IETE.

The 2025 theme specifically underscored the persistent and critical digital gender gap. Despite advancements, a significant portion of women and girls worldwide remain offline. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2025 acted as a powerful reminder of the fundamental importance of digital inclusion, particularly for women and girls, in building a more equitable and sustainable digital future for all.

This year held particular significance as the ITU commemorated its 160th anniversary, reaffirming its enduring commitment to advancing global connectivity and fostering international cooperation in the digital realm. Marking both, its foundational date and a milestone anniversary, the day highlighted the ITU's continued role in shaping the future of telecommunications and information technologies for a more inclusive world.

In a message, Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, ITU, said that we have seen a great deal of progress in sixteen decades, with more people connected than ever before, yet one-third of humanity remains offline. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is a moment to reflect on the work still ahead. This year and every year, we need to ensure that everyone, especially women and girls, benefits fully from the opportunities brought by technology.

Bharti Airtel aims to have 50% women in its workforce



Bharti Airtel has reaffirmed its long-term commitment to gender diversity, with a vision to achieve 50 percent women representation across its workforce, according to the company's Chief People Officer (CPO), Ms Amrita Padda. The current representation stands at around 18.5 percent, a marked improvement from under 10 percent a few years ago. As part of its efforts to boost gender parity, Airtel has revamped its campus hiring programme, now engaging with nearly 100 institutions across 18 states and 30 cities. This includes women-only and non-traditional colleges, helping the company achieve over 60 percent women representation in its campus intake, according to the report.

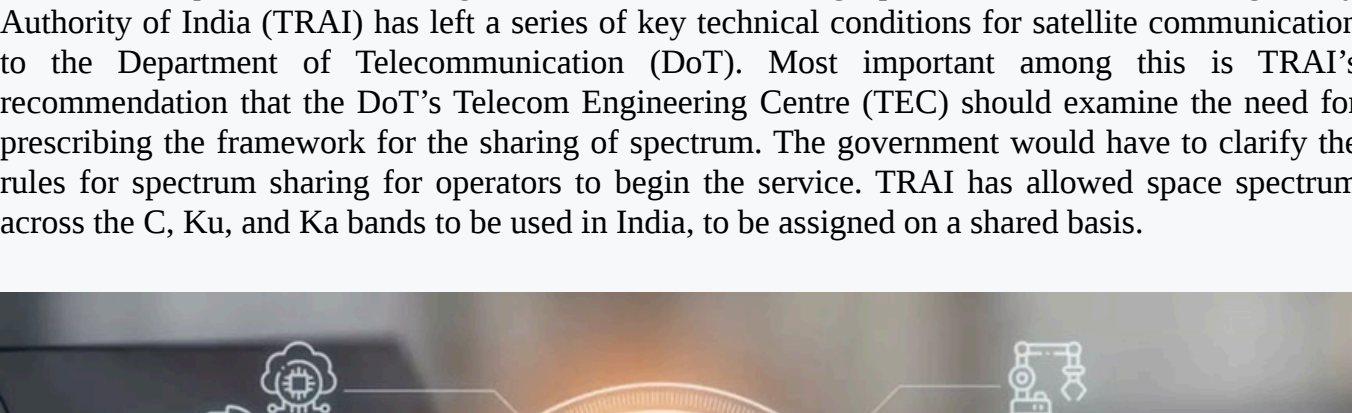
Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R: WP5A - Land mobile service excluding IMT; amateur and amateur-satellite service	12th - 22nd May 2025	30th April 2025
ITU-T: Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG)	26th - 30th May 2025	14th May 2025
ITU-R: Working Parties 3J, 3K, 3L and 3M	26th May - 05th June 2025	14th May 2025
ITU-R: Working Parties 1A, 1B and 1C	09th - 18th June 2025	29th May 2025
ITU-R: WP 5D	24th June - 03rd July 2025	12th June 2025
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2)	28th July - 01st Aug 2025	18th July 2025
APT: The 25th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-25)	01st - 03rd July 2025	22nd June 2025
APT: The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-4)	14th - 18th July 2025	04th July 2025
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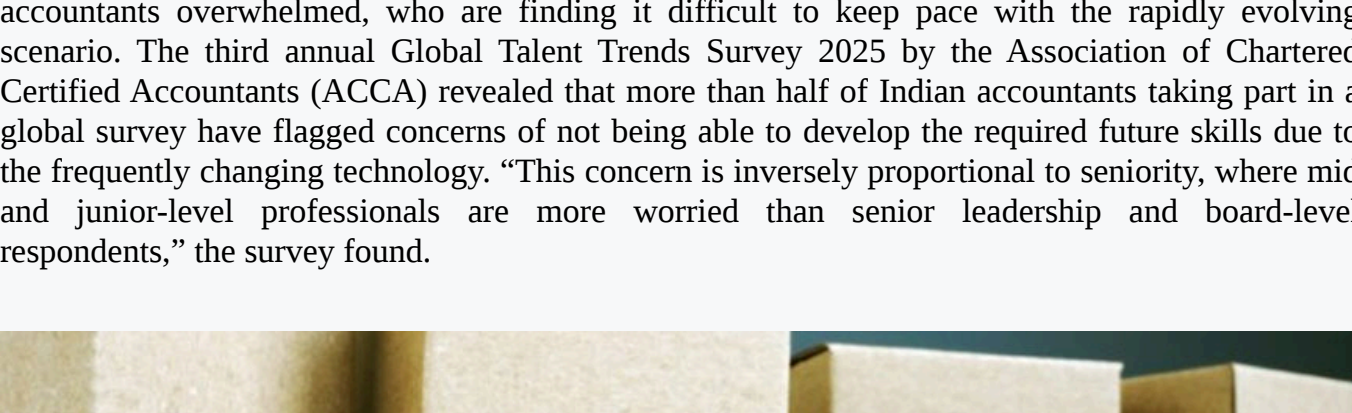
Telecom Stories:



From prescribing coordination distance between two satellite earth station gateways operating on the same frequencies to creating a framework for sharing spectrum, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has left a series of key technical conditions for satellite communication to the Department of Telecommunication (DoT). Most important among this is TRAI's recommendation that the DoT's Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) should examine the need for prescribing the framework for the sharing of spectrum. The government would have to clarify the rules for spectrum sharing for operators to begin the service. TRAI has allowed space spectrum across the C, Ku, and Ka bands to be used in India, to be assigned on a shared basis.



The changing speed of technology and impact of artificial intelligence on their roles has left Indian accountants overwhelmed, who are finding it difficult to keep pace with the rapidly evolving scenario. The third annual Global Talent Trends Survey 2025 by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) revealed that more than half of Indian accountants taking part in a global survey have flagged concerns of not being able to develop the required future skills due to the frequently changing technology. "This concern is inversely proportional to seniority, where mid and junior-level professionals are more worried than senior leadership and board-level respondents," the survey found.



The Union Finance Ministry is considering levying a 10 per cent Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on a key category of mobile tower components through a new product classification, aiming to curb the misuse of tariff exemptions and bolster domestic manufacturing. This policy rethink comes against the backdrop of two high-profile disputes involving Samsung India and Nokia Solutions – which have claimed zero-duty benefits on the import of such items. This policy rethink comes against the backdrop of two high-profile disputes involving Samsung India and Nokia Solutions – which have claimed zero-duty benefits on the import of such items. The government, however, considers this as a case of misclassification.

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