

ITU-R WP5D to open next week – Key deliverable is to finalize 6G Technical Performance Requirements



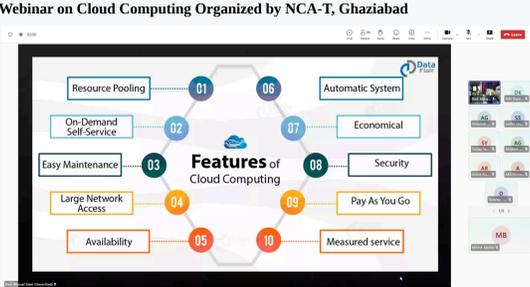
The 51st meeting of ITU-R WP5D will be held in Geneva from 3 to 12 February 2026, focused on advancing the global development of International Mobile Telecommunications toward 2030 and beyond (IMT- 2030/6G) under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union’s Radiocommunication Sector. WP5D is the study group responsible for radio system aspects of IMT including IMT-2000, IMT-Advanced, IMT-2020 and IMT-2030. Key deliverables of this meeting are the finalization of Preliminary Draft New Reports on IMT-2030 technical performance requirements (IMT-2030.TECH PERF REQ), evaluation methodology (IMT- 2030.EVAL), and submission and consensus building process (IMT-2030/2) ahead of further study and approval later in the IMT-2030 timeline. This meeting will build on the earlier work at WP5D meetings — including elevation of key working documents toward draft reports — and set the stage for concluding these deliverables in subsequent meetings, ensuring that global stakeholders and member states can converge on standardized criteria for next-generation mobile network technologies. IAFI and DOT have sent strong delegates to participate in this meeting.

TRAI organized OHD on Interconnection Matter on 28-01-2026



On November 10, 2025, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued a Consultation Paper regarding the "Review of Existing TRAI Regulations on Interconnection Matters," inviting comments and counter-comments from stakeholders. The proposal aimed to review nine legacy regulations issued between 1999 and 2018, to develop a comprehensive regulation aligned with present technological developments. In response, TRAI received 17 comments and 9 counter-comments. Subsequently, on January 28, 2026, TRAI convened an Open House Discussion (OHD) presided over by the Chairman, TRAI. The session was chaired by Chairman, TRAI and attended by two TRAI Members, Principal Advisors (NSL) and many other senior officials of TRAI. IAFI along with various Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), consumer forums, associations, and individuals, participated in the discussion. During the extensive seven-hour session, a majority of stakeholders reached a consensus on three major issues (1) shifting the Point of Interconnection (POI) to the Licensed Service Area (LSA) level (2) Reviewing the Incoming International Termination Charges (3) Mandating that future interconnections be IP-based. Dr. M.P. Tangirala, Member (TRAI), agreed to review the incoming International Termination Charges (ITC) and invited detailed proposals from stakeholders by February 10, 2026.

Webinar on Cloud Computing Organized by NCA-T, Ghaziabad



The National Communication Academy - Technology (NCA-T), Ghaziabad organized a webinar on "Cloud Computing" on January 29, 2026. The session aimed to explore the core concepts of cloud computing, including service and deployment models, as well as key benefits such as scalability, flexibility, and cost efficiency. The webinar was attended by a diverse audience, including officers from Licensed Service Areas (LSAs), the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Internet Service Providers (ISPs), industry forums, and academia. The inaugural session was graced by dignitaries Shri Atul Sinha, DG, NCA-T, and Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, DDG (ICT), NCA-T. Distinguished speakers from the Faculty of Engineering at Jamia Millia Islamia, the National Informatics Centre (NIC), and industry experts in Cloud Architecture and DevOps shared insights on current research, field implementations, and innovations in cloud security. Key topics discussed were (1) The role of cloud computing in government services, the adoption of "Government Cloud," data sovereignty, and compliance with government policies to enhance e- Governance and digital public service delivery (2) The shift from traditional on-premise data centers to cloud- based operations, highlighting the move toward virtualization, shared resources, automation, and improved resilience.

The 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU PP-26-2



The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) convened the 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (APT PP26-2) virtually, for two days from 28-29 January, 2026. The meeting witnessed strong participation with a total of 260 delegates, attending representatives from 27 Member States and 19 Affiliate Members/Organizations. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI along with many other IAFI members attended the meeting. The meeting focused on consolidating regional views and reviewing the progress of preparatory activities for the upcoming Plenipotentiary Conference. The preparatory group undertook the primary activities such as analysing the outcomes and reports from the ITU Council Working Groups (CWGs) and various Expert Groups (EGs) and reviewed the "Issue Papers" prepared by the Working Groups of APT PP-26, which identify key topics for the conference. It also considered and deliberated on input contributions submitted by APT Members and reviewed the outcomes of the preparatory processes of the ITU and other Regional Telecommunication Organizations (RTOs) to align strategies. The meeting also discussed the outcomes of the 49th Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-49) that are relevant to the scope of the APT Preparatory Group for PP-26.

Eighth virtual meeting of National Working Group-20 (NWG-20)



On January 30, 2026, IAFI participated in the 8th virtual meeting of the National Working Group-20 (NWG- 20), corresponding to ITU-T SG-20, for the 2025-2028 study period. The meeting was organized by the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) and chaired by Shri R.S. Singh, DDG. The session saw wide participation from key stakeholders, including officers from DoT, TEC, and MeitY, as well as faculty from IIT Roorkee, Ropar, and Delhi, alongside industry executives. As the introductory meeting for the new study period, the primary objectives were to review of past outcomes – Apprising members of the status of Indian contributions submitted and presented at the previous ITU-T SG-20 meeting (September 15–25, 2025) and identifying work items from the active list to prepare contributions for the upcoming ITU-T SG-20 meeting in May 2026. Chair requested the members to review the active work items, propose new topics of interest, and submit their contributions for the upcoming cycle.

Shri S T Abbas assumes additional charge of CMD TCIL



Shri Syed Tausif Abbas given the additional role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) for three months, from January 27, 2026, to April 26, 2026. This interim appointment by the Ministry of Communications followed the retirement of the former CMD, Shri Sanjeev Kumar. Shri S. T. Abbas holds the substantive position of Sr DDG and Head, TEC. He is an Indian Telecommunication Service (ITS) officer from the 1989 batch and has previously served as a Principal Advisor for the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for seven years. TCIL is a Mini Ratna Category-I public sector enterprise under the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU: Working Party 5D (WP 5D) - IMT Systems	03rd Feb - 12th Feb 2026	22nd Jan 2026
ITU: ITU-T SG3 Regional Group for Asia and Oceania (SG3RG-AD)	10th Feb 2026	28th 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:



Union Minister for Communications and Development of the Northeastern Region, Jyotiraditya Sinha, informed the Rajya Sabha about the significant progress and future roadmap of the Department of Telecommunications in providing connectivity to Gram Panchayats (GPs), underlining that BharatNet has evolved into the backbone of India’s digital transformation. Replying to a question in the House, the Union Minister said that the government’s vision is to provide world-class, fast, and reliable broadband connectivity to every citizen, enabling transformative change in education, healthcare, governance, business, and employment. BharatNet, he said, is no longer just a connectivity project but a national digital infrastructure empowering both rural and urban India.



The Department of Telecom is examining applications of Amazon Kuiper for satcom services while it has rejected requests received for the same from Tata Group firm Nelco and Hiranandani Group company Yotta Network, Parliament was informed.

Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha said in the last five years, Nelco Ltd, Yotta Network Services, OneWeb India Communications, JIO Satellite Communications, Starlink Satellite Communications, Amazon Kuiper Services India and Connect4sure Technologies have applied for satellite communication services. "The applications of Nelco Ltd and Yotta Network Services Pvt Ltd have been rejected, whereas Connect4sure Technologies Pvt Ltd has withdrawn its application. The application of Amazon Kuiper Services India Pvt Ltd is under examination," Pemmasani said.



India and the European Union have elevated their cooperation on next-generation telecom by formally tying 6G and secure digital infrastructure into the broader India-EU strategic partnership. The Ministry of Communications’ note positions this as both a technology and a geopolitical move, centred on security, trusted supply chains, and global standards.

At the political level, the release anchors 6G cooperation in two high-profile milestones: the visit of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the EU College of Commissioners to India in February 2025, and the 16th India-EU Summit in New Delhi on 27 January 2026. In both cases, leaders underscored the importance of advanced and emerging technologies under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and endorsed "Towards 2030: A Joint India-EU Comprehensive Strategic Agenda", which explicitly calls for collaboration on universal, meaningful, and secure digital infrastructure and trusted telecom ecosystems.

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