

IAFI News

IAFI urges Hon’ble MoC for prompt Delicensing of Lower 6 GHz Band



The IAFI, in a letter to the Minister of Communications, urged immediate delicensing of the lower 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) for Wi-Fi, warning that continued delays could severely impact India’s digital transformation, local manufacturing, and economic growth, with projected losses of up to 12.7 lakh crore annually and over 4 trillion 330 lakh crore by 2034. The letter emphasized that making the band available is critical for initiatives like Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, and would help expand affordable, high-speed broadband, stimulate device manufacturing, and enable services like telemedicine and e-governance in rural areas. The IAFI called for the government to promptly issue rules, at least for indoor use cases where there is consensus, highlighting that over 100 countries have already taken similar steps, leaving India at a competitive disadvantage.

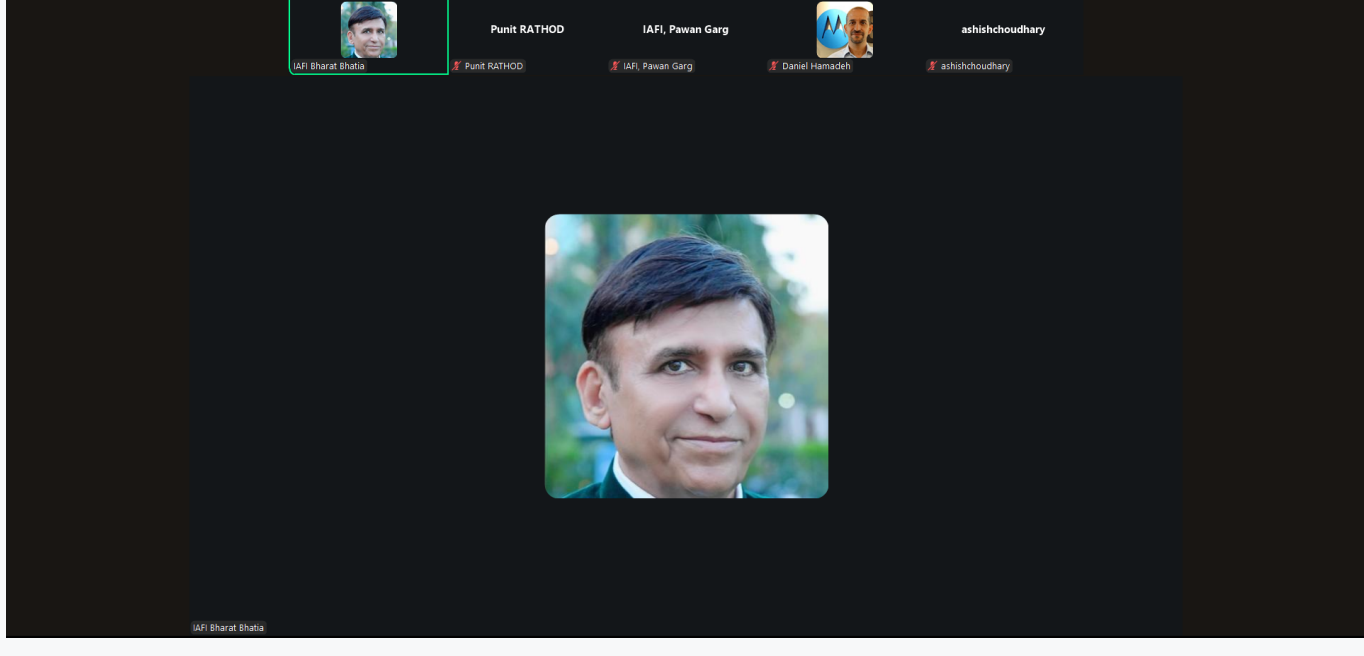
Details of the letter can be seen at
<https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/iafi-urges-minister-for-prompt-delicensing-of-lower-6ghz-band/>
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/centre-issues-draft-rules-to-delicense-lower-segment-of-6-ghz-band-for-indoor-use/articleshow/121274257.cms>
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/centre-issues-draft-rules-to-delicense-chunk-of-6-ghz-band-for-indoor-use/articleshow/121273401.cms>
<https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/centre-pushes-draft-rules-to-free-up-6-ghz-spectrum-for-wi-fi-6e-and-7-networks-2727516-2025-05-20>
<https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/delicense-lower-6ghz-for-wifi-7-digital-transformation-initiatives-iafi-to-scindia/120480243>
<https://www.broadcastandcablesat.co.in/iafi-urges-government-to-delicense-5925-6425-mhz-band/>

APT WTDC-25-5 Meeting



In preparation for the upcoming World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25), the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) held its fifth and last preparatory meeting in Bangkok from September 15-19, 2025. The event, attended by 168 participants from 29 countries, aimed to finalize Preliminary APT Common Proposals (PACPs) to help close the global "digital divide." The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) played a significant role, submitting the highest number of proposals with a total of six, which included four amendments and two new resolutions. All six of India's proposals were presented and discussed, with three ultimately being adopted as PACPs, contributing to the total of 25 PACPs finalized during the successful meeting. It may be noted that current WTDC- 25 is scheduled to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 17 to 28, 2025.

IAFI Radio Group preparatory meeting for WP-5D



On September 18, 2025, the IAFI convened a hybrid Radio Group meeting to prepare contributions for the upcoming WP-5D meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, scheduled for October 07-16, 2025. IAFI is currently working on six key topics, including preliminary draft revisions for several ITU-R Reports concerning the application of IMT for societal, industrial, and Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) applications. They are also developing a new report on non-safety air-to-ground communications (IMT-ATG) and assisting with a report on national IMT implementation. The group's work also includes preparing a liaison statement to 3GPP for updated standards and a reply liaison statement to JCA-IMT2020 regarding the IMT roadmap, with a submission deadline of September 25, 2025.

NWP-4A Meeting regarding Agenda Items -1.1, 1.2, 1.3 & 1.4



NWP-4A1 under WPC wing of DoT conducted its 11th meeting on 19.09.2025 in the spectrum room at Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, in a hybrid mode, to discuss draft input contributions on WRC-27 Agenda items (1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4) and ITU-R Recommendations/Reports/Questions assigned to NWP-4A1. One document regarding Agenda Item -1.3, amendments to working document relating to section 5.1 and Annex A, sharing with geostationary fixed-satellite service was discussed. The proposed edits are in support of the contribution (4A/535) submitted by India at May 2025 WP4A meeting to introduce a new method in CPM text regarding development of EPFD limits for protection of GSO networks from non-GSO gateway emissions in 51.4-52.4 GHz frequency band.

Launch of new modules on Saral Sanchar portal of DoT



In a move to improve the ease of doing business, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched three new modules on its Saral Sanchar portal at saralsanchar.gov.in. The newly live and operational modules are: Spectrum Regulatory Sandbox (WiTe Test Zones), NOC for Power Line Carrier Communication (PLCC), and Self-Assessment of Spectrum Usage by Government Users. Applicants can now use the portal to apply for the Spectrum Regulatory Sandbox and NOC for PLCC.

DoT Consultation Paper

Consultation Paper	Submission Dates	Status
Department of Telecommunications - GSR-606-E Gazette Notification published draft Telecommunications Authorization Rules, 2025	25th Sep 2025	Under Development

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI Meeting
ITU-R: Working Party 7D (WP 7D) - Radio astronomy	15th - 24th Sep 2025	3rd Sep 2025	-
ITU-R: Working Party 7B (WP 7B) - Space radiocommunication applications	16th - 25th Sep 2025	4th Sep 2025	-
ITU-R: Working Party 7C (WP 7C) - Remote sensing systems	16th - 25th Sep 2025	4th Sep 2025	-
APT: The Meeting of the SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services	23rd - 25th Sep 2025	13th Sep 2025	-
ITU-R: Working Party 5D (WP 5D) - IMT Systems	07th - 16th Oct 2025	25th Sep 2025	-
ITU-R: Working Parties 4A, 4B and 4C	15th - 24th Oct 2025	03rd Oct 2025	-

Telecom Stories:



BharatGen, a non-profit AI group based at IIT Bombay, just landed ₹988 crore (\$112 million) from the Indian government under the IndiaAI Mission.

This makes it the top-funded AI project in India and tasks it with building large homegrown AI models for Indian languages—an effort aimed at reducing India’s reliance on foreign technology.

Funding to develop trillion-parameter models for Indian languages

With this funding, BharatGen will develop massive AI models (up to one trillion parameters) focused on Indian languages and real-world sectors such as agriculture, education, retail, and public utilities.

To power all this work, they’re getting access to 13,642 NVIDIA GPUs for a year—an infrastructure boost worth about \$100 million.



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has raised several concerns about the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India’s (TRAI) proposed charges for satellite internet providers, particularly the low fixed charges and the spectrum pricing structure recommended for satellite communication (satcom) services.

Main points of contention

- DoT objects to TRAI’s proposal of a ₹500 annual charge for urban satellite broadband subscribers, citing implementation challenges and unclear urban–rural demarcation.
- The department finds TRAI’s recommended annual minimum spectrum charge of ₹3,500 per MHz too low, believing it could encourage spectrum hoarding rather than efficient usage.
- While DoT agrees in principle with TRAI’s idea of charging satellite operators 4% of their adjusted gross revenue as spectrum charges, it has sent the recommendations back for clarification on several parameters, including pricing logic, spectrum use, and subsidy mechanisms.
- DoT has asked for further clarity on subsidy funding for satellite terminals from the Digital Bharat Nidhi and the capacity limits for satellite systems.



The government is keen to launch satellite communication (satcom) services by the end of this year. The Digital Communication Commission (DCC) – the highest decision-making body of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) – is expected to meet soon to discuss the details of the rollout for the same.

The DCC would chart out the relevant policies for satellite-based services, for which companies like Elon Musk-owned Starlink, Mukesh Ambani’s Reliance Jio joint venture with SES and Globalstar and Sunil Mittal-backed Eutelsat OneWeb are in the fray.

“We are hopeful of services (satcom) being rolled in December-January time period, as final decision on spectrum pricing would also be announced,” said a senior government official.

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