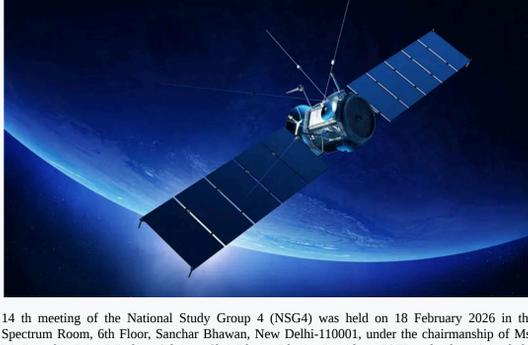


Meeting of the National Study Group 4 (NSG4)



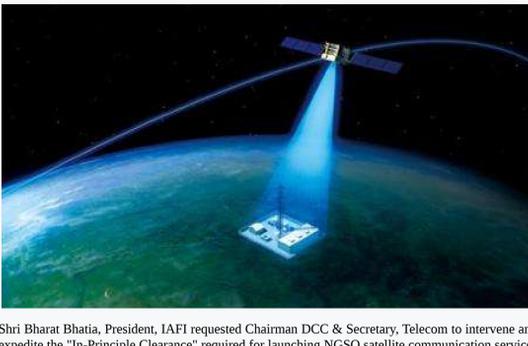
14 th meeting of the National Study Group 4 (NSG4) was held on 18 February 2026 in the Spectrum Room, 6th Floor, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi-110001, under the chairmanship of Ms. M. Revathi, Joint Wireless Adviser. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI and others joined the meeting. Main agenda of the meeting was to review the previous contributions to be submitted by India to various WPs under SG-4 of the ITU-R that deals with FSS, MSS, BSS and RDSS. IAFI is currently developing draft contributions regarding Agenda items 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5 and 1.7. These will be discussed and finalized in IAFI meetings on 17 March.

IAFI inputs to TEC regarding Annual Action Plan 2026-27



On 12 January 2026, the Standardization Division of the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) issued a communication regarding the formulation of its Annual Action Plan (AAP) for the financial year 2026-27. Acting in its capacity as the Standard Setting Organization (SSO) for the telecom sector, TEC invited stakeholder inputs to identify telecom equipment and products requiring new or revised standards and conformity assessment measures. Inputs and suggestions were requested specifically on (a) New standards and specifications (b) Prioritization of specific items for urgent attention and (c) Revisions of existing TEC documents. In response, IAFI circulated the communication among its members to gather expert insights. Based on the feedback received, IAFI has formally submitted a comprehensive proposal to TEC for consideration and further necessary action.

IAFI letter to Secretary, DoT regarding NGSO



Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI requested Chairman DCC & Secretary, Telecom to intervene and expedite the "In-Principle Clearance" required for launching NGSO satellite communication services in India. Letter highlights a critical bottleneck where procedural delays of over a year are stalling subsequent regulatory approvals and preventing the rollout of crucial connectivity services. The Satellite Communication Reforms 2022 introduced, the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Satellite Network Clearance (IMC-SNC), to act as a unified, fast-track platform for approvals across various departments (DoT, WPC, NOCC, TEC, DoS). While the SatCom Guidelines 2022 mandate a 6-week timeline for granting in-principle clearance, NGSO operators have currently been waiting for over a year. Because the in-principle clearance is a mandatory prerequisite, operators are procedurally blocked from obtaining downstream approvals, such as NOCC Carrier Plan Approval, SACFA clearance, and frequency assignments. These delays prevent operators from utilizing their satellite and ground infrastructure, stalling the monetization of heavy investments and denying remote and strategic regions access to critical connectivity. IAFI requested to prioritize processing the in-principle clearances for applicants holding valid licenses.

Stakeholder Consultation Meeting by Niti on Jan Vishwas Siddhant



A stakeholder meeting was held on 18th February 2026 at NITI Aayog regarding a new Trust-Based Regulatory Framework – Jan Vishwas Siddhant for the Department of Telecommunications. The meeting was attended by all industry telecom associations. The meeting requested all industry associations to submit their considered inputs and suggestions by 24th February 2026.

India AI Impact Summit 2026



The India AI Impact Summit 2026, a landmark international event was hosted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under the India AI Mission. It marked the first major global AI summit held in the Global South, successfully pivoting the global dialogue from theoretical AI risks to practical, equitable deployment and real-world impact. Event was held from February 16–21, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam and Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attended by over 20 heads of state. It also drew top global tech CEOs, including Sundar Pichai (Google), Sam Altman (OpenAI), and Demis Hassabis (Google DeepMind). The summit convened over 20 Heads of State (including French President Emmanuel Macron and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva), 60 Ministers, and official delegations from 118 countries. Theme of the event was "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" (Welfare for all, happiness of all). This milestone agreement was endorsed by 88 countries and international organizations, including the US, China, Russia, and the EU. This non-binding declaration focuses on democratizing AI resources, promoting open-source AI ecosystems, and ensuring developing nations become creators, rather than just consumers, of AI technology. On the sidelines of the summit, India formally joined Pax Silica, a US-led initiative focused on AI and supply chain security. Regarding Frontier AI Commitments - a shared, voluntary framework was adopted by leading global and domestic AI companies to ensure inclusive, shared, and responsible AI development. The summit secured over \$250 billion in infrastructure-related capital commitments to build robust digital networks capable of supporting advanced AI deployment. The event attracted approximately \$20 billion in venture capital and deep-tech investments to bolster the domestic AI and semiconductor ecosystem. The summit and its parallel expo saw footfall exceeding 5 lakh visitors. Additionally, the event set a Guinness World Record with over 2.5 lakh students taking a pledge for responsible AI.

India's iPhone Exports Reach a Record \$23 Billion in 2025



In a major milestone for India's manufacturing sector, smartphones have officially become the country's top export category for the first time, dethroning automotive diesel fuel. Driven largely by Apple, total smartphone exports reached \$30.13 billion between January and December 2025. The iPhone emerged as India's single most valuable export. Apple devices accounted for a staggering \$23 billion (76% of total smartphone exports), with the majority of shipments destined for the US market. Apple's manufacturing footprint in India has grown to five dedicated iPhone factories—three operated by the Tata Group and two by Foxconn. The tech giant is now supported by a robust domestic network of nearly 45 supply chain partners. This includes a significant number of MSMEs producing critical components for Apple's local and global operations.

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:



On the sidelines of the AI Summit in New Delhi, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State for Communications, Government of India, held a bilateral meeting at Dak Bhawan with Kanishka Narayan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for AI and Online Safety, United Kingdom. The meeting reaffirmed the growing depth of India-UK cooperation in telecommunications, digital innovation, and emerging technologies under the India-UK 2030 Roadmap and the UK-India Technology Security Initiative (TSI). During the discussions, the Hon'ble Minister of State emphasized that India views artificial intelligence as central to the future of telecommunications. He noted that combining India's scale with the United Kingdom's research strengths can help shape global standards in AI-native networks, Open RAN, and 6G, ensuring that technology drives both growth and trust. Both sides reviewed progress under the Department of Telecommunications-DCMS MoU and welcomed the operationalization of the India-UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre.



The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched landmark initiatives in India's digital security framework. It has deployed next-generation AI enabled biometric deduplication and document verification platform. This platform will improve the deduplication accuracy of the Enrolment or Update transaction being undertaken by UIDAI. This "Invisible Shield" marks a new chapter in India's digital safety mission – a multi-layered AI defence system that integrates crores of computations, harnessing accelerated computing to protect citizens' trust and data integrity.



The department of telecommunications (DoT) has stepped in to solve the network crisis at Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), asking operator Adani Group to allow telecom companies to deploy network at the airport in accordance with rules. In a letter to Adani Airport Holdings Ltd, dated 16 February, the DoT said NMIA qualifies as a 'public entity' under the Telecom Act, 2023, and therefore must allow telcos to deploy the network. The intervention from the telecom department has come at a time when passengers at the airport have been complaining about the absence of mobile network from private telecom operators. Notably, telcos alleged that the airport operator asked them to utilise its own exclusive in-building telecom network at unreasonably high charges.

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