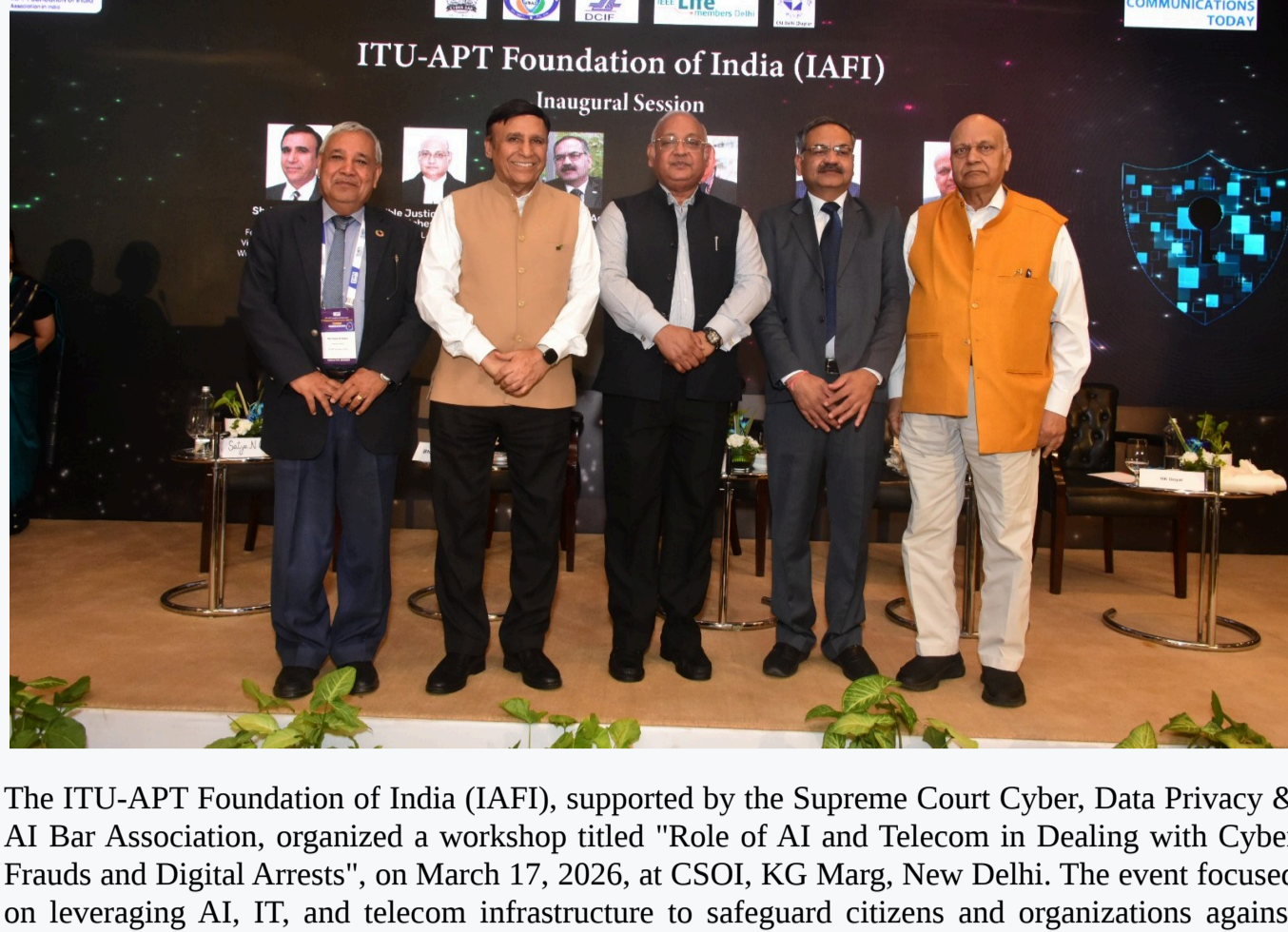


IAFI Organized a Round Table Meeting at CSOI KG Marg, New Delhi



On March 16, 2026, the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) held a round-table drafting session at CSOI, KG Marg, New Delhi, to discuss India's submissions for APG-27 and the National Study Group (NSG) regarding WP-4A/4C (satellite issues). Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, alongside several IAFI members, including Shri Jitendra Singh, Dr. Sendil Devar, Dr. Puneet Rathor, Shri Rajesh Mehrotra, and Shri P. K. Garg and many industry representatives from GSMA, Nokia, Viasat, Amazon Kuiper/LEO, Qualcomm, and Ericsson, participated in the meeting. Participants deliberated on ten documents in total: five for the APG-27 meeting and five for WP-4A/4C. Among the satellite-related documents, the group updated four draft CPM texts for Agenda Items 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.5 (for WP-4A), along with one document for Agenda Item 1.13 (for WP-4C).

IAFI Workshop on Cyber Fraud and Digital Arrest



The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI), supported by the Supreme Court Cyber, Data Privacy & AI Bar Association, organized a workshop titled "Role of AI and Telecom in Dealing with Cyber Frauds and Digital Arrests", on March 17, 2026, at CSOI, KG Marg, New Delhi. The event focused on leveraging AI, IT, and telecom infrastructure to safeguard citizens and organizations against emerging digital threats. Speakers deliberated on critical issues, including the anatomy of cyber frauds, digital forensics, cyber law, digital evidence, legal remedies, strategic cyber-security, national response frameworks, and corporate cyber-security. The workshop was well-received, drawing over 100 participants from across society, including both youth and senior citizens.

Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, inaugurated the workshop alongside esteemed guests: Hon'ble Justice Shri Dinesh Maheshwari (Former Supreme Court Judge and Chairman, Law Commission of India); Shri Ritu Ranjan Mittar (Member, TRAI); Mr. Orhan Osmani (Head of Cyber-security Division, BDI, ITU); and Shri Anuj Kumar Agarwal (Advocate, Supreme Court of India, and Chairman/Director of the Cyber, Data Privacy & AI Bar Association). Technical sessions were led by distinguished experts, including Dr. Anup Girdhar (CEO of Seculity Solutions & Technologies), Shri Alok Vijayant (Founder of SciRot Technologies LLP and former Senior Director, NSA, PMO), and Shri P. K. Garg (President, DCIF and Vice Chairman, IAFI). The workshop received additional support from organizations such as CSAI, DCIF, IEEE, and the CSI Delhi Chapter.

Link: <https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/iafi-hosts-workshop-on-role-of-ai-and-telecom-in-dealing-with-cyber-frauds-digital-arrest/>

IAFI Organized 3rd Preparatory Workshop for WRC-27



The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) organized a critical workshop dedicated to the preparatory activities for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 (WRC-27) on March 17, 2026. The event served as an authoritative platform for aligning India's national spectrum policies with international regulatory frameworks. Bringing together senior representatives from the DoT, WPC, industry leaders, and policy experts, the workshop aimed to strengthen India's strategic position on key WRC-27 agenda items. Focus areas included Agenda Items 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, and 1.13.

Delegates gained crucial insights into the ITU-R Working Parties, the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) process, and the synergy between national and regional spectrum efforts. A major highlight of the event included dedicated sessions on Working Parties 4A and 4C, which explored the profound impact of Geostationary (GSO) and Non-Geostationary (Non-GSO) satellite services. Considering the rise in spectrum demands, discussions heavily centered on satellite-terrestrial interworking, spectrum efficiency, and technological convergence. This high-level engagement between the government and industry is set to lay a robust foundation for India's participation in upcoming ITU-R Working Party meetings, including key studies in WP 5D, WP 4A, and WP 4C.

Link: <https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/wrc-27-preparations-spotlight-spectrum-crunch-as-india-pushes-6g-readiness/>

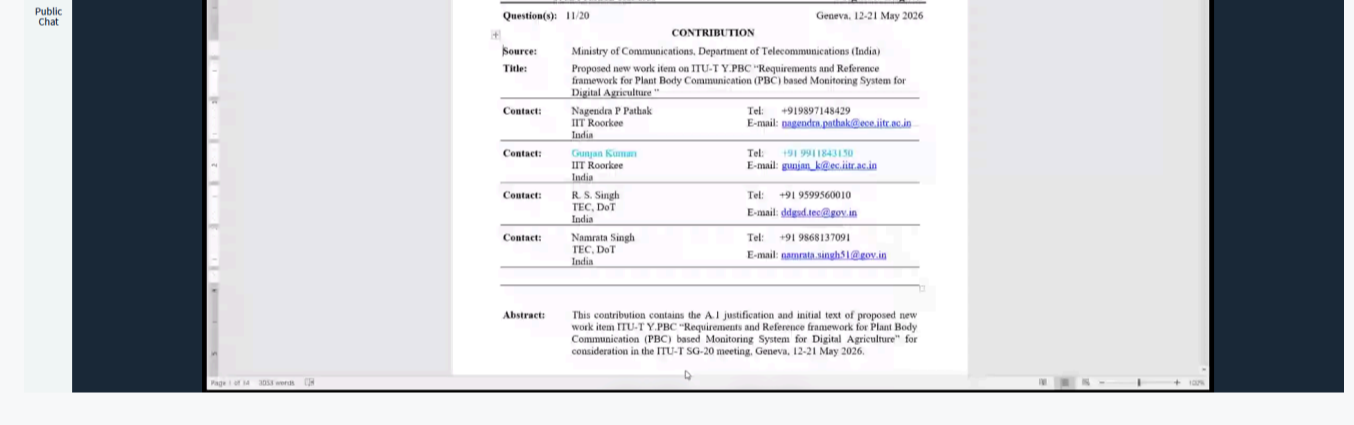
TEC Organized an International Workshop at Vigyan Bhawan regarding 6G Standardization



On March 18, 2026, the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the technical arm of the DoT, hosted the International Workshop on 6G Standardization at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Hon'ble Union Minister of Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, delivered the inaugural address, accompanied by a special address from Minister of State, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar. Aligned with the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Bharat 6G visions, the event aimed to position India as a global leader in the design, development, and deployment of 6G technologies by 2030. The workshop convened senior DoT officials, international telecom representatives, industry leaders, and academic experts to foster domestic innovation and strengthen India's influence in global telecom standardization.

Expert discussions and technical sessions explored the emerging 6G ecosystem, focusing on - The global roadmap for 6G and India's path to 2030; Evolution for next-generation communication systems; Strategies for future mobile networks; AI & ML Integration implementation within telecom networks; Frameworks for reliable future communications; Advancements in Radio Access Networks and Emerging 6G applications.

TEC Organized Meeting of the NWG-20 Corresponding to SG-20 of ITU-T



On March 20, 2026, IAFI participated in a virtual meeting of the National Working Group 20 (NWG- 20), organized by the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), NWG-20, which corresponds to the ITU-T Study Group 20, focuses on the Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Twins, and Smart Sustainable Cities and Communities for the 2025-2028 study period. The session was chaired by Shri R. S. Singh, DDC (IoT) at TEC, and featured participation from Shri Sushil Kumar, Chair of the SG20RG-AP. A total of 11 contributions were presented during the session, including five from TEC. Following detailed deliberations, 10 contributions were successfully accepted for the final NWG-20 meeting. It may be noted that the meeting of the SG20RG-AP, a regional group of SG-20 of ITU-T, will be held from March 24-25, 2026.

ET Telecom 5G Congress 2026



ET Telecom, the telecom intelligence media vertical of The Economic Times, organized the "5G Congress 2026" at the Hotel Hyatt, New Delhi, on March 20, 2026. The Chief Guest for the conference was the Hon'ble Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia. The Guests of Honour included Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Science & Technology, Public Grievances and Pensions, and Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State for Communications. Shri A. K. Lahoti, Chairman of TRAI, was invited as a Special Guest.

During the event, Shri Scindia emphasized that India will build on its rapid 5G expansion to lead the world in 6G and Artificial Intelligence innovation. With 5G network coverage now nearing 90% nationwide in India, the conference conversations shifted from basic connectivity toward future- proofing the telecom ecosystem.

Highlighting rapid expansion and policy reforms, MoS Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar stated that decisive actions have accelerated network rollouts, positioning India to reach one billion 5G users by 2031. He also noted a cultural shift within the DoT toward a more outcome-oriented, private-sector- like efficiency.

TRAI Chairman Shri A. K. Lahoti stated that the Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communications will form the "neural network" of the 5G-connected economy, requiring progressive regulation and robust spectrum policies. Additionally, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, was invited as a guest speaker and shared his insights on the topic, "From 5G Advanced to 6G: Gauging India's Readiness." It was stressed that simply expanding coverage is no longer enough. The industry must focus on monetizing 5G through enterprise adoption, private networks, low-latency applications, and cross-sector integration to unlock the technology's true economic value.

TRAI issues Consultation Paper on TCCCPR-2018 Amendments



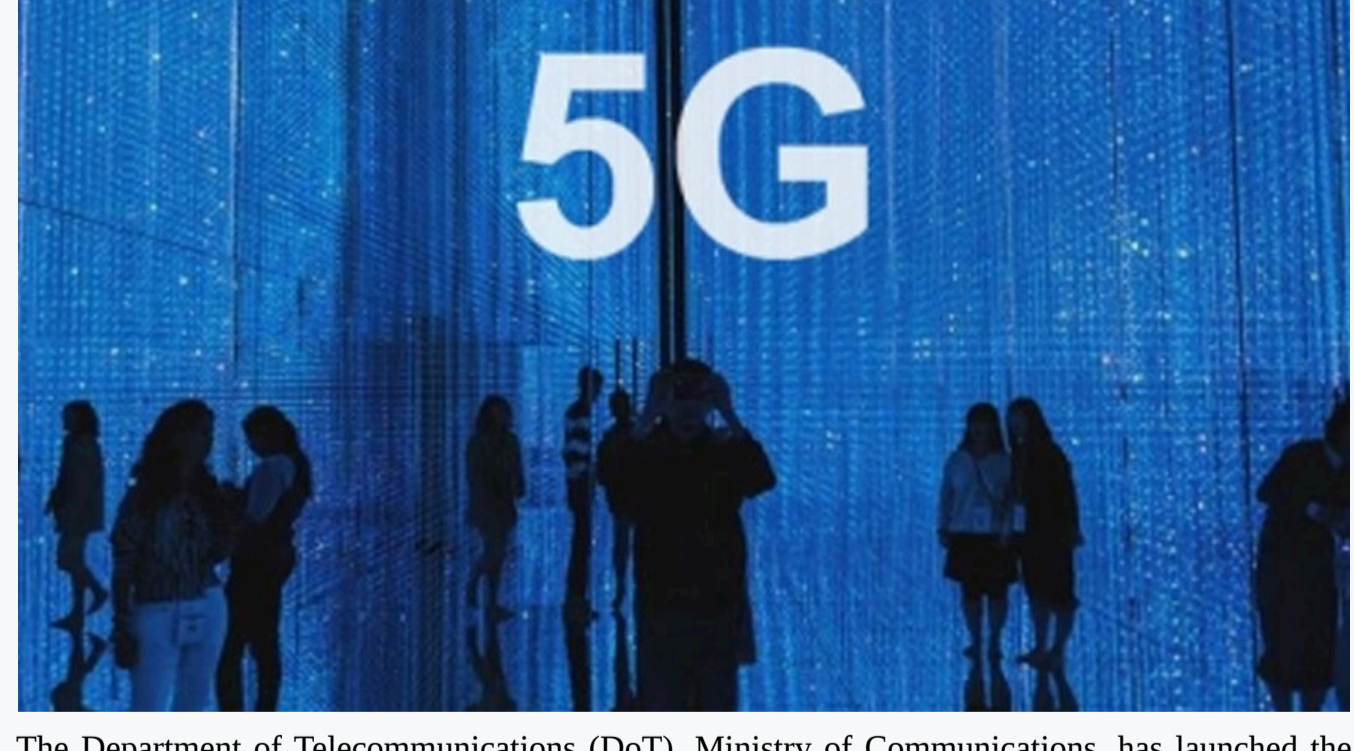
The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation Paper regarding the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 (TCCCPR, 2018), aimed at curbing the menace of Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC). The initial framework for regulating commercial communications (TCCCPR, 2018) was issued by TRAI on July 19, 2018. It was first amended on December 21, 2018, with a second amendment following recently on February 12, 2025. Based on stakeholder feedback and recent technological advancements, such as the implementation of AI-based UCC detection by major access providers, TRAI has recognized the need to update the regulations. The authority plans to amend certain existing provisions and introduce new ones to make the regulatory framework more effective and efficient in the current digital landscape.

Accordingly, TRAI has proposed draft amendments to the TCCCPR, 2018. The deadline for submitting comments and feedback on these proposed changes is April 12, 2026.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
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 - 10th April 2026	28th Mar 2026
APT: The 38th APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-38)	20th - 24th April 2026	10th April 2026

Telecom Stories:



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, has launched the second edition of its flagship initiative, 5G Innovation Hackathon 2026, building on the encouraging response to the previous edition. Organised under the 100 5G Use Case Labs Initiative, the Hackathon seeks to catalyse the development of innovative and scalable solutions leveraging 5G and allied technologies. It invites participation from students, start-ups, MSMEs, and innovators across the country.



As India accelerates its adoption of artificial intelligence across technology, services and engineering sectors, expectations of rapid productivity growth are running high. Yet, according to global economic analysis and industry-level observations within India, the reality appears far more measured. Evidence suggests that while AI is undoubtedly boosting efficiency at a task level, its broader impact on national productivity, especially in the near term, may be modest at best.



In line with Prime Minister's vision to democratize technology and empower citizens, the Government of India launched the Digital India programme in July 2015.

Through this programme, Government has bridged the digital divide using pronged strategy:

- Increasing access to internet,
- Making internet affordable,
- Providing digital public infrastructure,
- Enhancing the digital literacy

These efforts have collectively enabled wider access to digital services and opportunities, thereby fostering inclusive and equitable digital growth across the country. It can be seen from the following statistics: