



IAFI proposals for WTDC-25 considered by APT preparatory meeting



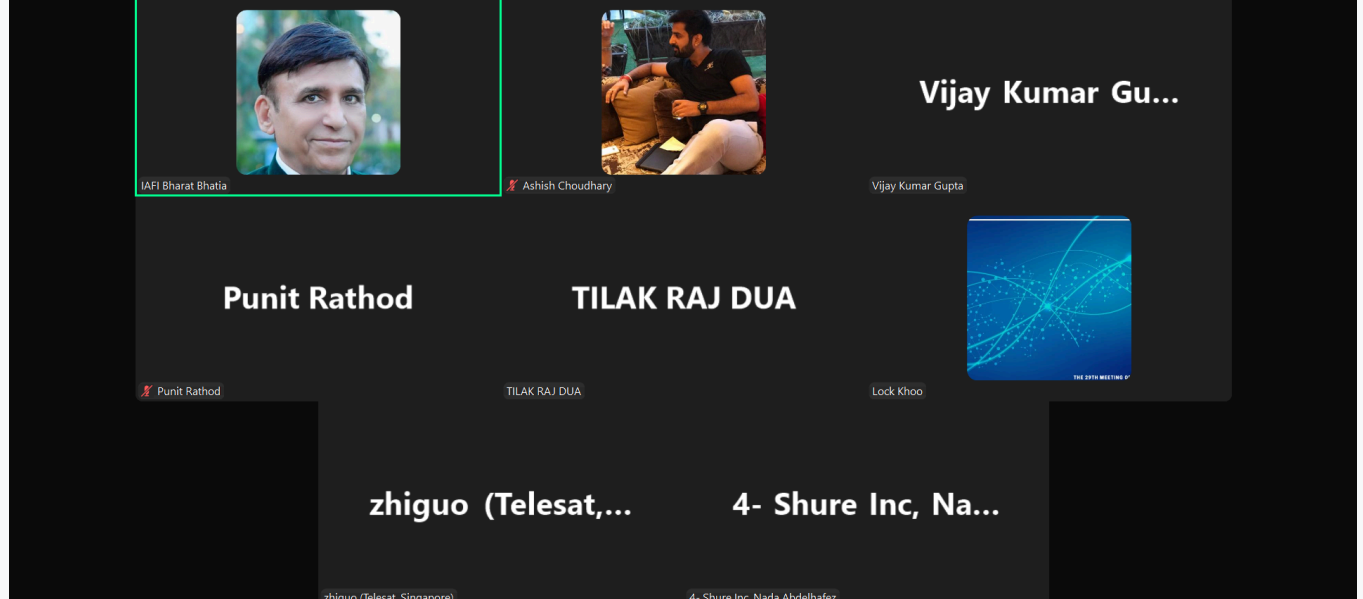
The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) WTDC-25-3 preparatory meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from March 17-18, 2025, to facilitate APT member preparations for the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25), scheduled for Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 17-28, 2025. The event was attended by 208 participants, encompassing 155 delegates from 26 Member States, 34 from 19 Affiliate Members, 6 representatives from International Organizations, one non-member participant, and 12 members of the APT Secretariat. IAFI had submitted five contributions to the meeting to revise 4 existing Resolution and one new Resolution. These contributions were discussed, and useful suggestions were provided by a number of member states and affiliate members. Based on these discussions, IAFI will refine and resubmit these contributions at the upcoming APT WTDC-25-4 meeting, which is scheduled for July 14-17, 2025, followed by the final preparatory meeting, APT WTDC-25-5, from September 15-19, 2025, both to be held in Bangkok, Thailand.

32nd Convergence India and 10th Smart Cities India-2025 expo



Exhibitions India Group, in collaboration with ITPO, hosted the 32nd Convergence India 2025 expo at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from March 19-21, 2025. Celebrating 31 years, the event showcased cutting-edge technologies and fostered international engagement within the Indian ICT market. The expo featured Telecom and Communications, IoT India, Embedded Tech India, Mobile India, Fintech India, and Digital Gaming India Expos, highlighting key areas such as Smart Education, the Startup Ecosystem, digital broadcasting, and e-commerce. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of IAFI, was invited as a Guest Speaker and delivered a lecture on “Connecting India: From 5G Leader to 6G Game Changer” during the inaugural session on March 19, 2025, focusing on Telecom & Connectivity."

IAFI's Radio Group Meeting dated 20th March, 2025



IAFI's Radio Group meeting was held on 20-03-2025 in hybrid mode, to discuss the contributions to be submitted to the upcoming AWG-34 meeting, to be held from 31st March to 04th April, 2025 at Kathmandu, Nepal. Many IAFI members from India and abroad joined the meeting. Total five contributions, likely to be submitted by IAFI, were discussed in the meeting.

- Proposal for further updates to the working document, toward draft revision of APT recommendation APT/AWG/REC-08 on frequency arrangements for the implementation of IMT in the band frequency range 612-806 MHz (612-703 MHz and 698-806 MHz).
- Proposals for working document towards a draft new survey report on usage of cooperative vehicle-infrastructure ITS systems.
- Proposal for draft Liaison Statement on completion of APT/AWG-REP-144 on WAS/RLAN.
- Proposal for updating working document towards revision of APT Report-136 on trends and spectrum developments for IMT usage in 2025 ~ 2030 in Asia-Pacific region.
- Working document towards a preliminary draft of new APT Report on emerging satellite technologies.

After detailed discussions, it was agreed that all five documents would be submitted, incorporating minor updates as suggested by members, before the submission deadline of March 24, 2025..

Vodafone Idea makes emergency call to DoT for equity conversions



Vodafone Idea (Vi) CEO, Shri Akshaya Moondra requested Department of Telecommunications (DoT) Secretary, Shri Neeraj Mittal to expedite the approval for equity conversion of the telco's impending adjusted gross revenue (AGR) and spectrum auction dues from 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2016. This appeal comes as the financially strained company anticipates a surge in regulatory payments. If approved, the government's stake in Vi could increase to 49% from its current 22.6%. Vi, a joint venture between UK-based Vodafone Plc and India's Aditya Birla Group, has informed the DoT that its current financial situation precludes it from providing a ₹6,091 crore bank guarantee or making a ₹5,493 crore cash payment to address a shortfall related to the 2015 spectrum auction.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

| Meeting | Dates | Submission Dates |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| ITU-R Working Party 7B (WP 7B) - Space radiocommunication applications | 17th - 26th Mar 2025 | 05th Mar 2025 |
| ITU-R Working Party 7C (WP 7C) - Remote sensing systems | 17th - 26th Mar 2025 | 05th Mar 2025 |
| ITU-R Working Party 7D (WP 7D) - Radio astronomy | 17th - 26th Mar 2025 | 05th Mar 2025 |
| APT: The 34th Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-34) | 31st Mar - 2nd April 2025 | 24th Mar 2025 |
| ITU-R Working Party 4C (WP 4C) - Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for MSS and RDSS | 23rd April 05th May 2025 | 11th April 2025 |
| ITU-R Working Party 4B (WP 4B) | 30th April - 05th May 2025 | 18th April 2025 |
| ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP 4A) - Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for FSS and BSS | 05th - 16th May 2025 | 24th April 2025 |
| APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2) | 28th July - 01st Aug 2025 | 18th July 2025 |

Telecom Stories:



Bill Gates met Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today in New Delhi. Bill Gates said that he had a great discussion with Prime Minister Modi about India's development, the path to Viksit Bharat @ 2047, and exciting advancements in health, agriculture, AI, and other sectors that are creating impact today. Shri Modi said that he has spoken about diverse issues including tech, innovation and sustainability towards making a better future for the coming generations with Bill Gates.



Government of India has undertaken following projects, with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), to increase telecommunication connectivity in remote areas:

- Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region, Andaman & Nicobar islands and Lakshadweep islands with projects costing over ₹4,050 crore.
- Scheme for providing mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and Aspirational Districts with projects costing over ₹13,179 crore.
- 4G Saturation Project for providing 4G mobile services in uncovered villages with projects costing over ₹26,300 crore.
- Amended BharatNet project to provide broadband connectivity to the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages.



The Government has taken the following key actions to improve broadband connectivity in rural areas and bridge the digital divide by implementing the National Broadband Mission (NBM) in the country, including the state of Tamil Nadu: Launched the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal on 14th May 2022, thus streamlining Right of Way (RoW) permissions for Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) laying and telecommunication tower installation. The Telecommunications Act, 2023, and the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules 2024 with effect from 1st January 2025, further streamlined RoW processes.

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