IAFI News

WEEK IN BRIEF

ITU-R WP-4A meeting concluded
TRAI release Telecom Subscription Report – quarter ending Sept, 2026
Viasat Award ceremony – 27-10-2026 at Hotel Shangri-La
DoT issued Draft Gazette Notification -GSR-905 regarding Regulatory Sandbox for comments
The 27th Meeting of South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-27)

Meeting of the Working Party - 4A



The 59th meeting of ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP 4A) was held from 19 October 2026 to 29 October 2026 at Geneva, Switzerland. The primary study areas of WP 4A include orbit and spectrum efficiency, interference, and coordination aspects for the Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS) and Broadcasting-Satellite Service (BSS). Main aim of the meeting was to finalize the draft text for the CPM (Conference Preparatory Meeting) report. The meeting received a total of 205 contributions and has organized its work across 14 Sub-Working Groups (SWGs), ranging from 4A1a to 4A1f, 4A2a to 4A2d, and 4A3a to 4A3c—along with an Ad Hoc Group (AHG). The meeting finalized the draft CPM text for WRC-27 Agenda Items 1.1 through 1.6, AI-7, ESIM, general FSS/BSS issues, and Article 22 matters. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI and Mr. Harshanquricated in the event in person, represented India and presented India's contribution for Agenda Item 1.5 and comprehensively explained numerous queries raised by member administrations. Similarly, changes proposed in the various resolutions attached with the draft CPM text, were explained to the meeting.

TRAI release Telecom Subscription Report – quarter ending Sept, 2026



TRAI released the Telecom Subscription Dat for the quarter ending Sept, 2026. As per the report

a. Total Telephone Subscribers -has reached to 1367.93 million (Consumer SIM – 1155.15 + M2M SIM -144.85 + FWA -19.19 + Wireline – 48.74 million).
b. Total FWA Subscribers – 19.19 million (5G FWA -13.61 + UBR FWA – 5.58 million). 5G FWA subscribers are more in rural area compared to urban area, while UBR FWA subscribers are more in urban area compared to rural area.
c. M2M subscribers has reached to 144.85 million.
d. Total Broadband Subscribers – 1107.68 million (Mobile Wireless – 1039.09 + Fixed Wireless – 19.70 +Wired – 48.89 million).

Viasat: Space for Good India Challenge 2026 – Awards



Viasat, a global leader in satellite communications, organized the second annual Space for Good India Challenge, supported by IN-SPACe, at the Shangri-La, New Delhi, on Tuesday, October 27, 2026. This flagship STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) competition brings together exceptional talent from across the country, encouraging university students to develop sustainable, space-based solutions to real-world challenges. The initiative empowers participants to explore how space technology can improve life on Earth. During the event, six finalists presented innovative solutions spanning critical areas such as equitable and sustainable access to space, Direct-to-Device (D2D) communications, the Internet of Things (IoT), multi-orbit constellations, and disaster and humanitarian response.

The winners of the 2026 Viasat: Space for Good India Challenge are:

- **1st Place (₹5,00,000) – Shri Aditya Uppal:** For developing an AI-driven system that autonomously tracks space debris, evaluates collision risks, and transmits real-time evasion commands via Viasat satellites.
- **2nd Place (₹3,75,000) – Shri Shashank Kumar Singh:** For an orbital observation tool designed to track the internal biological clocks of crops and forests, detecting drought or disease before visible symptoms emerge.
- **3rd Place (₹2,75,000) – Shri Aryan Gupta:** For creating a lightweight, battery-efficient security architecture for remote ground sensors utilized in agriculture, railways, and critical infrastructure.

Viasat has been a committed technology partner in India for decades, supporting aviation, maritime, and defense connectivity.
The company maintains an engineering center in Chennai, expanding operations in Hyderabad, and business development teams in New Delhi. With India's space economy projected to grow from approximately $8.4 billion today to nearly $44 billion over the coming decade, initiatives like the Space for Good Challenge are creating unprecedented opportunities for the next generation of students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and innovators.

DoT issued Draft Gazette Notification - GSR-905 regarding Regulatory Sandbox for comments



Department of Telecommunications (DoT) published a Gazette Notification - G.S.R. 905(E) on 21-10-2026, draft Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2024, inviting objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby, before the expiry of a period of thirty days from the date on publication. These rules may be called the Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2026.

The 27th Meeting of South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-27)



The 27th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-27) was held from 20 to 22 October 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The meeting was hosted by Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL). It was attended by 70 participants representing 9 SATRC Members, 1 other APT Member, 9 Affiliate Members and 1 International Organization. Many IAFI members including Dr. Sendil Devar, Sr Director, Standards and Spectrum, Ericsson India and Dr. Puneet Rathod, Lead Technical Standards, Qualcomm India attended the meeting physically. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Nandika Sanath Kumanayake, Secretary to the President of Sri Lanka, Presidential Secretariat, Sri Lanka. SATRC-27 elected Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Mr. Bandula Herath, Director General of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, as the Chair of SATRC, and Mr. Arjun Ghimire, Chairman of Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA), as the Vice-Chair of SATRC. The 28th Meeting of the SATRC will be hosted by Nepal Telecommunications Authority in Nepal in the fourth quarter of 2027.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU: PP-26	09th - 27th November 2026	29th October 2026
ITU-R: Working Party 5A (WP 5A)	18th - 26th November 2026	06th November 2026
ITU-R: ITU-R Working Party 5B	18th - 27th November 2026	06th November 2026
ITU-R: Working Party 5C (WP 5C)	18th - 27th November 2026	06th November 2026
ITU-R: Study Group 5 (SG 5)	30th November - 01st December 2026	18th November 2026

Telecom Stories:



The government has collected a total of ₹3.25 trillion from the mobile phone industry in lieu of the ₹19,000 crore mobile production-linked incentive doled out to the segment, according to data shared by Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday.
The stats shared by the Union electronics and IT minister on X showed that the government paid ₹19,000 crore in incentives under the scheme and in return collected ₹25,000 crore as direct tax and ₹3 trillion in the form of Goods and Services Tax (GST) from the beneficiaries.



Satellite communications in India is on the cusp of major commercial and technological innovation, and has the potential to propel the country to new heights, Trai Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti said on Tuesday.
Speaking at the Viasat 'Space for Good' India 2026 challenge, Lahoti said that for India, satellite broadband, cellular backhaul, maritime and aviation connectivity, remote area services, disaster resilience networks – all offer important application areas.



India's AI computing market has an unusual starting line. The first companies to build it at scale were not the mobile operators, with their nationwide fiber, data center arms, and deep pockets. They were neoclouds, specialist providers that rent out GPU capacity for AI training and inference. The operators are now arriving, with investment plans that dwarf anything the specialists can raise. The real question is not whether the smaller players can beat the telcos head-on. It is how long their early lead lasts, and what role they play once the giants' capacity comes online.

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