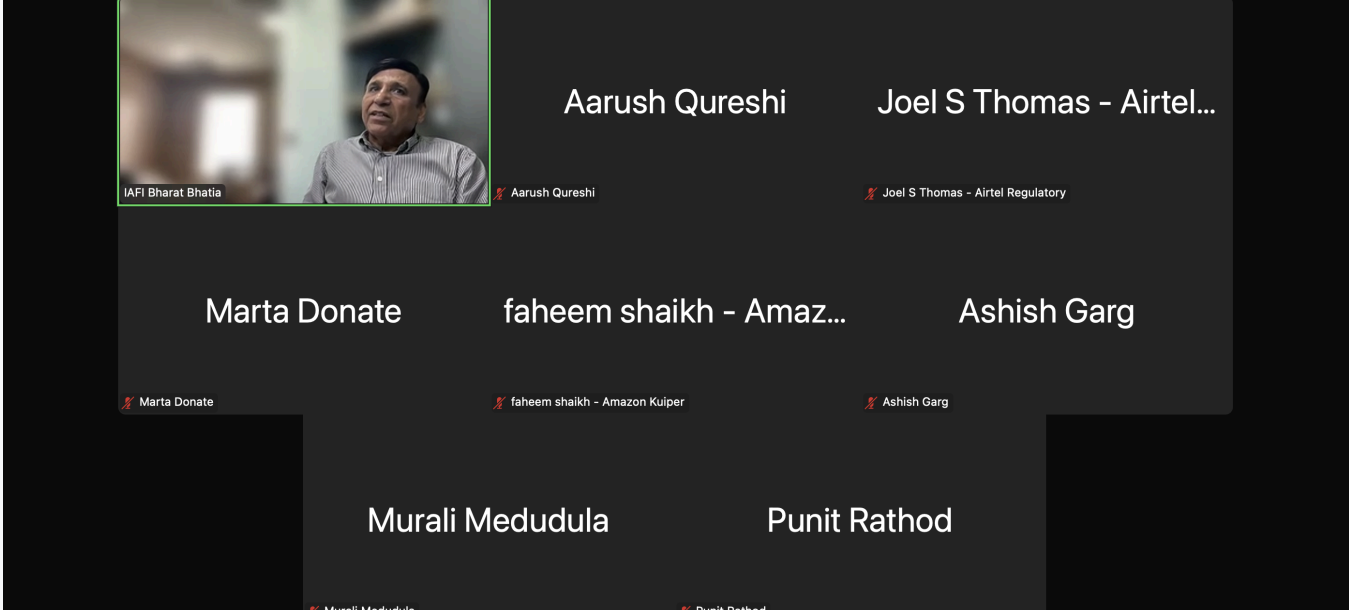


IAFI News

IAFI achieves consensus with Industry stakeholders on draft India Preliminary views on all key agenda items of WRC-27



On May 22, 2025, the IAFI Radio Group convened a crucial meeting to discuss and finalize India's draft contributions for the upcoming 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2), slated to take place in Pattaya, Thailand, from July 28 to August 01, 2025. The meeting was held physically at the IAFI office, with many participants from both India and abroad joined virtually. Twenty draft contributions, intended for submission to NPC/DoT, for onward transmission to APG27-2 meeting on behalf of India were fully discussed and full consensus was achieved on all 20 draft contributions, and these are now being processed for submission to DOT.

World Telecom and Information Society Celebrations



On May 20, 2025, World Telecom and Information Society Day (WTISD) was celebrated at the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) New Delhi headquarters. This year's celebration centered on the globally significant theme of "Universal and Meaningful Connectivity (UMC)," a theme that resonates deeply with TRAI's core mission of ensuring inclusive, equitable, and sustainable access to communication services for all. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI was also invited for the participation in the event. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and Chairman, TRAI delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the Authority's critical contributions to shaping the telecom sector.

Meeting of DoT's Committee regarding issues related to MTCTE/NCCS



IAFI participated in the DoT's Committee Meeting with stakeholders, organized by the TEC/DoT at 13th floor, Sanchar Bhawan, DoT on 21-05-2025, to discuss the challenges faced by the OEMs/Telecom Service Providers, regarding certification criteria fixed by the MTCTE/NCCS for testing of the telecom hardware/software. Meeting was chaired by the Member (Technology), DCC. Chair explained the intent behind MTCTE and NCCS, as to ensure a robust, secure, and high-quality telecom infrastructure in India and TEC has been designated as the Telegraph Authority for the purpose of Testing and Certification. OEMs and other vendors raise the multiple issues and need for greater harmonization with international standards and more efficient certification processes to reduce the burden on OEMs while achieving the desired security and quality objectives. After detailed deliberations on various issues raised by various stakeholders and considering the complexity involved, Member (T) requested the stakeholders to send their comments through e-mail, so that same can be compiled by TEC and discuss further.

Meeting of NSG-6



The 3rd meeting of NSG-6, corresponding to SG-6 of ITU-R, was held on 21.05.2025 under the Chairmanship of NSG-6, Shri N. K. Bhola, Director (A), WMO HQs, in a hybrid mode. IAFI members participated in the meeting virtually. Study Group-6 of the ITU-R deals with the Broadcasting service, Radiocommunication broadcasting, including vision, sound, multimedia and data services principally intended for delivery to the general public and three working parties WP-6A, 6B and 6C are functioning under SG-6. It was informed by the chair that during the last WP-6A, 6B, 6C meeting at ITU, India could not submit any contribution. Chair requested all participants to submit at least one or two contributions, so that India can actively participate in the future WP-6A, 6B and 6C meetings.

NCA-T webinar regarding Active Antenna Technology



IAFI members participated in a webinar organized by National Communication Academy -T Ghaziabad/ DoT on "Active Antenna Technologies for Mobile communication", held on 23-05-2025. The webinar was aimed to explore cutting-edge advancements in phased array antenna technology. Three guest speakers were invited - Dr. (Ms) Pranoti Bansode-Gaikwad, Assistant Professor, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Dr. Ekant Sharma, Assistant Professor, IIT Roorkee and Dr. Hanumantha Rao, Director General, SAMEER (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research) IIT Bombay. Main focus of the webinar was to explain the participants regarding the importance of the phased array technology in 5G applications, especially the successful implementation of massive machine type communication (mMTC) and the extreme data throughput specified in the International Mobile Telecommunications-2020 (IMT- 2020 Standard).

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-T: Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG)	26th - 30th May 2025	14th May 2025
ITU-R: Working Parties 3J, 3K, 3L and 3M	26th May - 05th June 2025	14th May 2025
ITU-R: Working Parties 1A, 1B and 1C	09th - 18th June 2025	29th May 2025
ITU-R: WP 5D	24th June - 03rd July 2025	12th June 2025
APT: The 25th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-25)	01st - 03rd July 2025	22nd June 2025
APT: The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WDC-25 (APT WDC25-4)	14th - 18th July 2025	04th July 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:



In a move that could significantly alter the use-case landscape for 5G spectrum, Reliance Jio has approached DoT, seeking approval to use spectrum in the 26 GHz band for offering Wi-Fi services. Officials said that this request has been made under Clause 2.3 of the Notice Inviting Application (NIA) for the July 2022 spectrum auction, which mandates that operators must obtain prior approval from DoT to use spectrum assigned for mobile technologies like 5G for any alternative services, including Wi-Fi. As per the clause, such a request must be made at least six months before deploying the spectrum for the new purpose.



The Department of Telecommunications is set to start charging telecom companies for the use of high-frequency radio bands—airwaves that are critical for transmitting internet and call data between mobile towers. High-frequency bands—such as 6 GHz, 7 GHz, 13 GHz, 15 GHz, and 21 GHz—are currently being used by telecom operators like Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea, primarily for tower-to-tower communication, also known as backhaul. These microwave links form the backbone of India's mobile and internet connectivity, carrying call and data traffic between telecom towers. So far, operators have used these bands without paying any direct fee, only paying a nominal Spectrum Usage Charge. However, the government is now moving to monetize this infrastructure, the people said.



Satellite communication firms, including Elon Musk's Starlink, are expected to introduce their services in India with promotional unlimited data plans started below \$10 (approximately ₹840) per month. These companies aim to rapidly expand their user base, potentially reaching up to 10 million customers in the mid-to-long term. This would help offset the steep spectrum costs through economies of scale.

Follow us on:-



ITU-APT Foundation Of India 504, Fifth Floor World Trade Center (Behind Lalit Hotel)
Barakhamba Road New Delhi- 110001, India.

Contact No.: +91-11-45005163, 7017210403, 9999797700 - Website: iafi.in

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