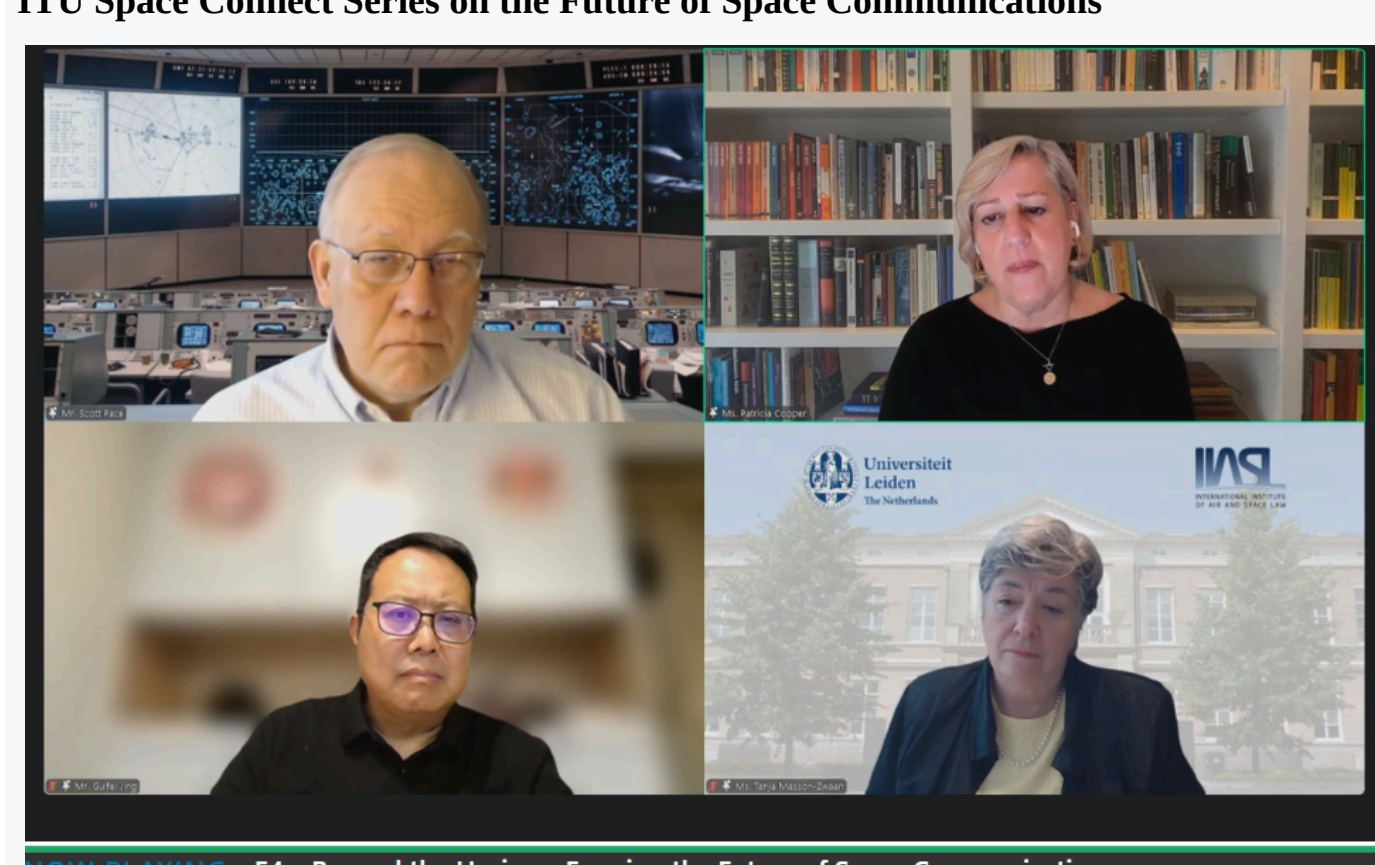


**IAFI News**

**ITU Space Connect Series on the Future of Space Communications**



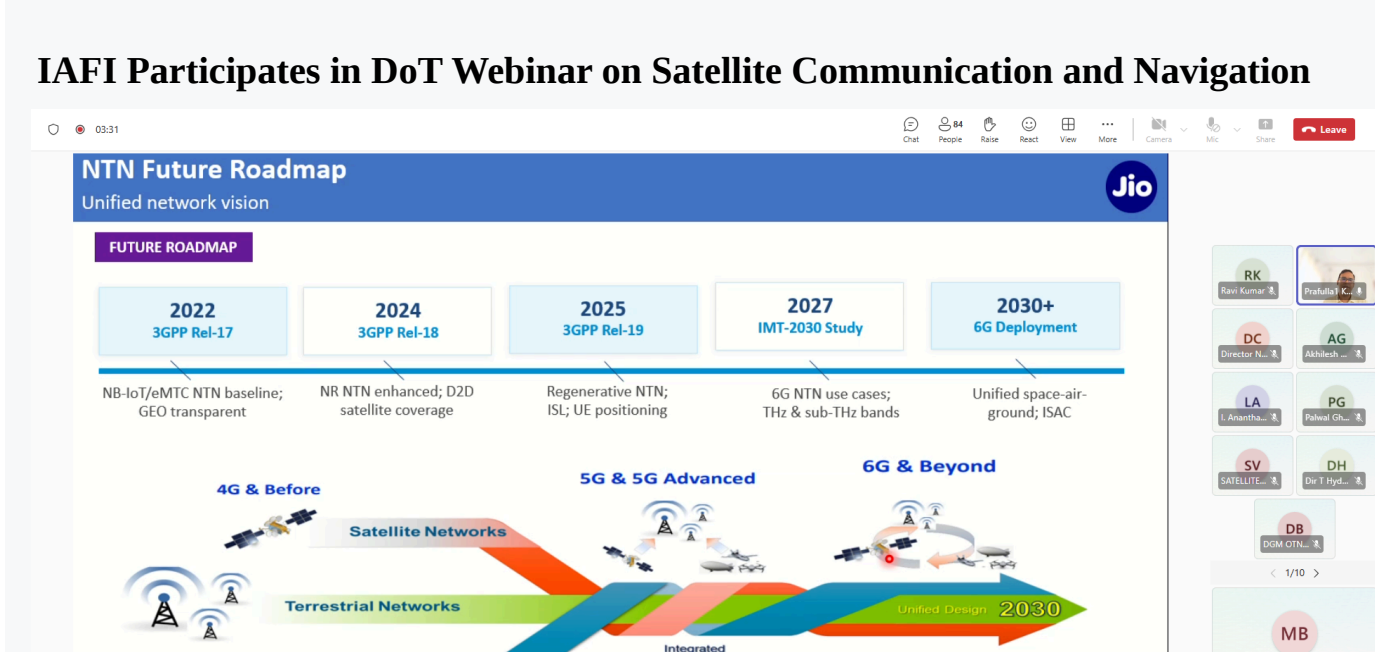
On May 19, 2026, IAFI participated in the Episode-4 of the ITU Space Connect Series, titled "Beyond the Horizon: Framing the Future of Space Communications." Moderated by Ms. Patricia Cooper, the webinar featured leading experts from the ITU's Academic Advisory Body (AAB) Space Thematic Group, including Dr. Scott Pace, Dr. Tanja Masson-Zwaan, and Dr. Guifei Jing. The forward-looking panel tackled breakthrough concepts shaping global connectivity, spectrum management, and standardization. Key topics explored included the creation of a Solar System Internet, defining Coordinated Lunar Time, quantum-secure space communications, and leveraging Artificial Intelligence to expand Earth observation data. The session provided crucial insights into how these rapid technological innovations will impact regulators, policymakers, and the broader space industry in the coming years.

**APT hosts SATRC spectrum group meeting in Bhutan**



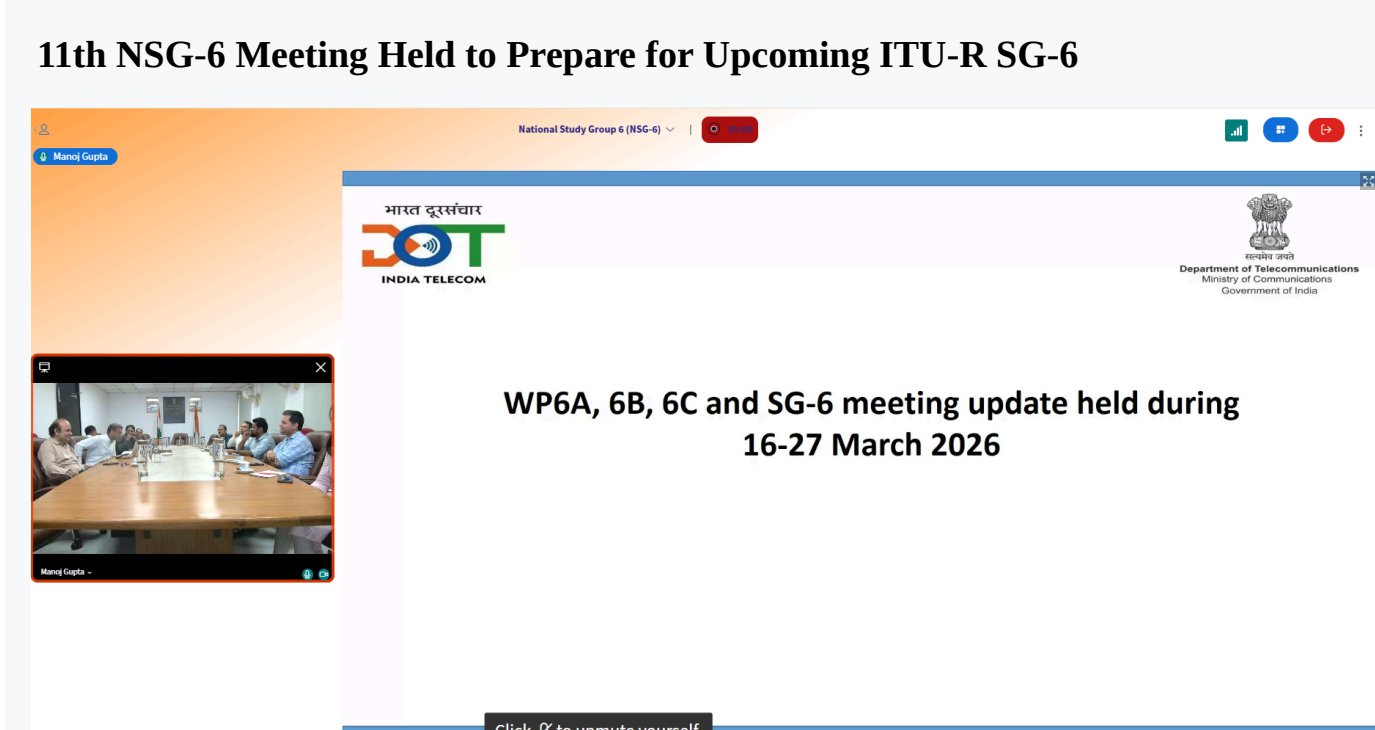
The Bhutanese regulator BICMA hosted the APT SATRC-2026 on 20-21 May 2026. The event was attended by IAFI member Dr. Sendil Kumar from Ericsson and Mr. Ashish Garg (he/him) from GSMA. The event provided an amazing experience to be in #Bhutan and a memorable hospitality by #BICMA to share industry views on the ongoing critical topics of spectrum towards #6G and the momentum of #D2D Direct to Device from Satellites in IMT band - #WRC27 Agenda Item #1.13.

**IAFI Participates in DoT Webinar on Satellite Communication and Navigation**



On May 20, 2026, the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) participated in a webinar hosted by the National Communication Academy (Telecom) under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The session provided a comprehensive overview of Satellite Communication (Satcom) and Navigation (Satnav) technologies, focusing on emerging trends, Quality of Service (QoS), and practical applications across sectors like disaster management, transportation, and digital connectivity. Expert presentations were delivered by Sh. Prafulla Kumar (VP Tech & Product Head, Satcom, RJO), alongside Dr. Chandra Prakash and Shri Jayesh Thakkar (both Scientist-G, ISRO). The webinar aimed to bring together expert insights from the space and telecom sectors to increase awareness of technological advancements, practical use cases, and the growing integration of satellite technologies in national development. Additionally, the event offered valuable career guidance on the evolving skill requirements in the space and telecom domains, empowering professionals and students to make future-ready career choices.

**11th NSG-6 Meeting Held to Prepare for Upcoming ITU-R SG-6**



IAFI participated in the 11th meeting of the National Study Group 6 (NSG-6), corresponding to ITU-R SG-6, held in a hybrid format on Thursday, May 21, 2026. The meeting was chaired by Shri N.K. Bhola, Wireless Advisor, and coordinated by Shri Manoj Gupta, EIC WMO HQ. In his welcoming remarks, Shri Bhola encouraged all members to actively participate and provide substantial contributions for the upcoming SG-6 meeting, scheduled for September-October 2026 in Geneva. During the session, the Rapporteur for NSG-6, Shri Prakash Kamble, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the key discussions, outcomes, and developments from the recent WP-6A, 6B, 6C, and SG-6 meetings held in Geneva in March 2026. Additionally, Shri Rajeev Kumar, DDG (Prasar Bharati), gave a detailed presentation outlining critical issues and potential areas for submitting contributions at the upcoming SG-6 meeting. He informed the group that the IAFI contribution regarding the revision of Report ITU-R BT.2049-8 ("Broadcasting of multimedia and data applications for mobile reception") was successfully presented at the last WP-6B meeting as Contribution-164. Members also noted that a Working Document exists for the revision of Report ITU-R BT.2295-4 ("Digital terrestrial broadcasting systems"), suggesting that further updates could be drafted and submitted to WP-6A.

**Bharat 6G 2026 International Conference and Exhibition**



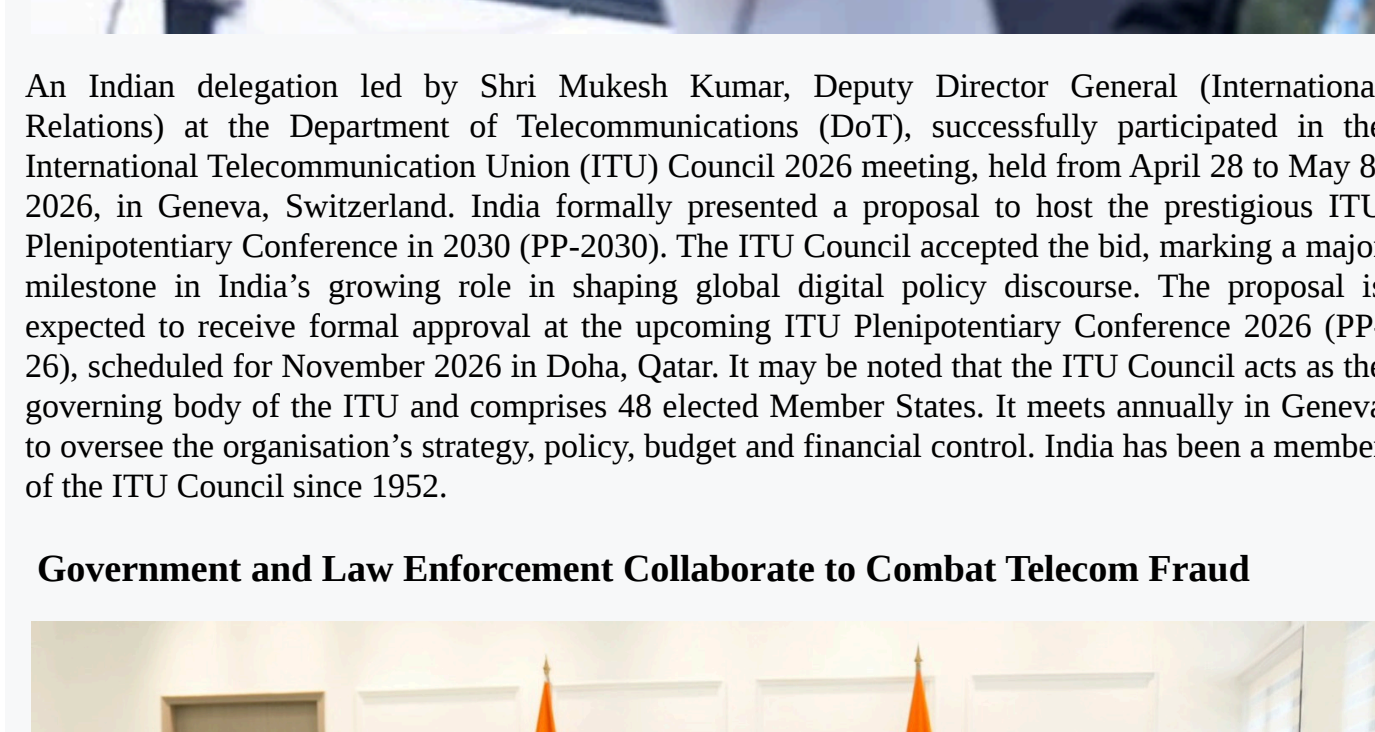
The 4th Edition of the Bharat 6G Conference and Exhibition concluded successfully on May 22, 2026. Organized by Bharat Exhibitions, the one-day event served as a premier platform for telecom industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, startups, and academia to deliberate on the critical roadmap transitioning from 5G to 6G. A major highlight of the event was the plenary panel address by Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI. Discussions focused heavily on the upcoming regulatory landscape, spectrum strategies, standardization efforts, and device ecosystem readiness. Aligned with the Government of India's core visions, including Digital India, Make in India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat, the conference aimed to drive widespread awareness of 6G's societal benefits across sectors like healthcare, agriculture, education, and manufacturing. By fostering deep collaboration across the tech ecosystem, India's 6G roadmap is actively positioning the nation to pioneer ultra-high-speed, secure, intelligent, and sustainable future networks.

**India Secures ITU Council Approval to Host ITU Plenipotentiary Conference PP-2030**



An Indian delegation led by Shri Mukesh Kumar, Deputy Director General (International Relations) at the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), successfully participated in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council 2026 meeting, held from April 28 to May 8, 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland. India formally presented a proposal to host the prestigious ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2030 (PP-2030). The ITU Council accepted the bid, marking a major milestone in India's growing role in shaping global digital policy discourse. The proposal is expected to receive formal approval at the upcoming ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26), scheduled for November 2026 in Doha, Qatar. It may be noted that the ITU Council acts as the governing body of the ITU and comprises 48 elected Member States. It meets annually in Geneva to oversee the organization's strategy, policy, budget and financial control. India has been a member of the ITU Council since 1952.

**Government and Law Enforcement Collaborate to Combat Telecom Fraud**



Following the recent apprehension of 66 individuals tied to an extensive SIM card fraud ring by Hyderabad Police, Union Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani convened a virtual review meeting with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and local law enforcement. The high-level discussion was organized to analyze the recent focus and fortify the nation's telecom infrastructure against cybercriminal exploitation. The primary focus of the meeting was to bolster intelligence-sharing channels between police departments and telecom regulators. Authorities aim to establish robust, proactive regulatory measures that can intercept network misuse at the source, reducing the need for reactive enforcement. During the briefing, Hyderabad Police detailed the syndicate's modus operandi, explaining how rogue telecom vendors were conducting unauthorized SIM card regenerations. Additionally, officials highlighted that fraudsters were financially exploiting vulnerable citizens to acquire SIM cards registered in their names. These illegally obtained cards were then allegedly smuggled to international locations, like Dubai and Cambodia etc to serve as the operational backbone for cross-border cybercrimes.

**TRAI Consultation Paper**

Consultation Paper	Submission Dates	Status	Submission
Proliferation of Public Wi-Fi Networks in India	01st June 2026	Under Development	-
Consultation Paper on the Regulatory Framework for Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Communication	28th May 2026	Under Development	-

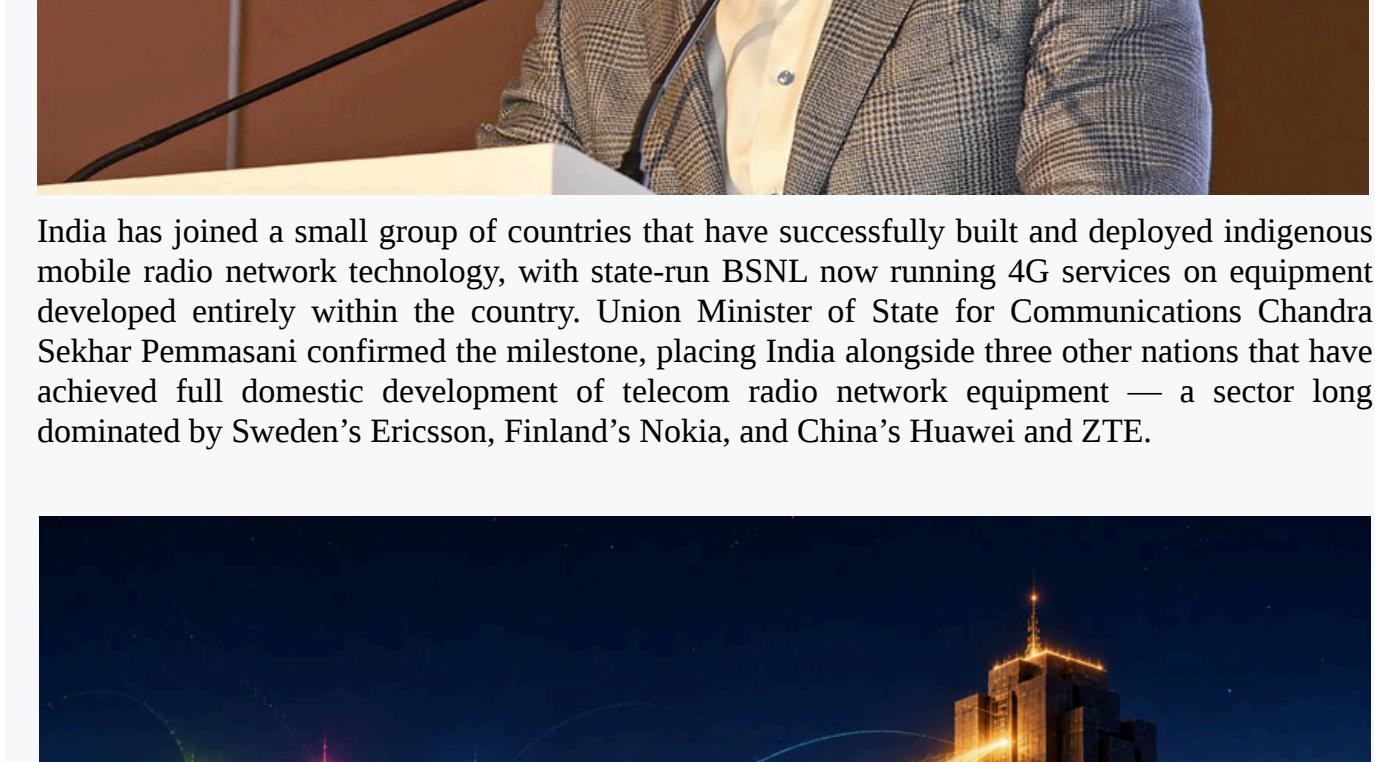
**Important Meeting that IAFI will attend**

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R: WP 5A – Land mobile service above 30 MHz; amateur and satellite services	18th - 26th May 2026	06th May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5C – Fixed wireless systems; HF and other systems below 30 MHz	18th - 29th May 2026	06th May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5B – Maritime mobile service including GMDSS; aeronautical mobile service	19th - 26th May 2026	07th May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5D – IMT Systems	27th May - 05th June 2026	15th May 2026
APT: The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (APT PP26-4)	15th - 19th June 2026	05th June 2026
APT: The 3rd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-3)	27th - 31st July 2026	20th July 2026
APT: The 5th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (APT PP26-5)	24th - 28th Aug 2026	14th Aug 2026

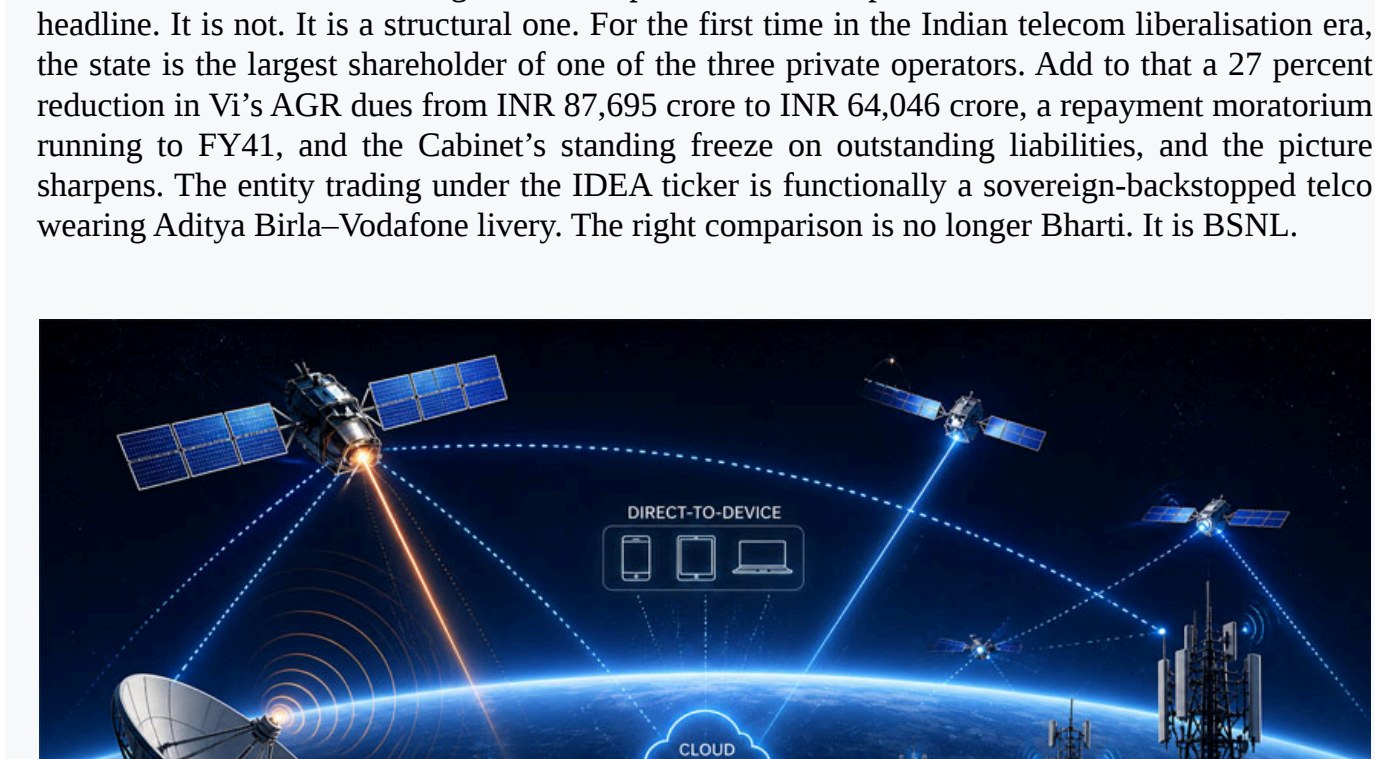
**Telecom Stories:**



India has joined a small group of countries that have successfully built and deployed indigenous mobile radio network technology, with state-run BSNL now running 4G services on equipment developed entirely within the country. Union Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani confirmed the milestone, placing India alongside three other nations that have achieved full domestic development of telecom radio network equipment — a sector long dominated by Sweden's Ericsson, Finland's Nokia, and China's Huawei and ZTE.



The May 2026 confirmation of the Department of Telecommunications' AGR conversion arithmetic — Vodafone's idea owing 3,695 crore fresh shares at INR 10 apiece, taking the Government of India's holding from 22.6 percent to 48.99 percent — was treated as a survival headline. It is not. It is a structural one. For the first time in the Indian telecom liberalisation era, the state is the largest shareholder of one of the three private operators. Add to that a 27 percent reduction in Vi's AGR dues from INR 87,695 crore to INR 64,046 crore, a repayment moratorium running to FY41, and the Cabinet's standing freeze on outstanding liabilities, and the picture sharpens. The entry trading under the IDEA ticker is functionally a sovereign-backed stopgap telco wearing Aditya Birla-Vodafone livery. The right comparison is no longer Bharti. It is BSNL.



By the time DoT finalises terms for the administratively allocated satellite communication spectrum, the public storyline has hardened into a clean three-way race: Reliance Jio-SES, Bharti Airtel-Eutelsat OneWeb, and a Starlink that, after a March 2025 distribution tie-up with Reliance Retail and a third-quarter 2025 letter of intent from the government, looks more frenemy than outright outsider. Tata's decision to resell OneWeb services adds a fourth distribution lane. Vodafone Idea, partnered with AST SpaceMobile, is still working through a regulatory snag. This is the version of the story that has been told fifty times. The more interesting version is that not being said.