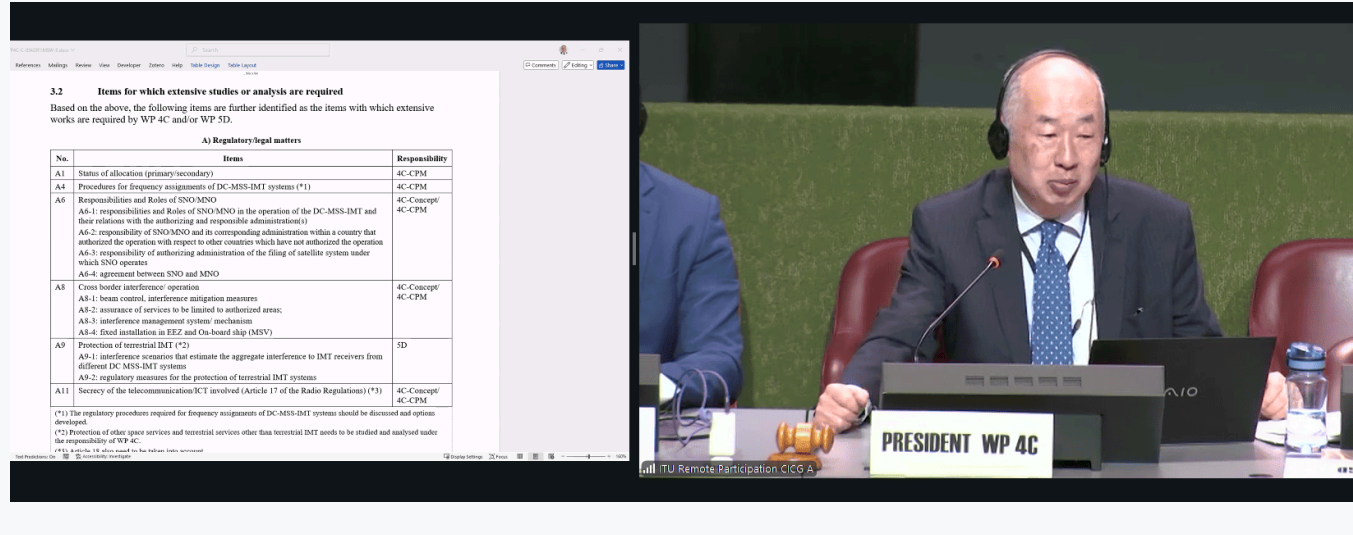


**India Nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026 in Enabling Environment Category**



India has achieved global recognition with the nomination of the Department of Telecommunications' "Samridh Gram" initiative for the prestigious WSIS Prizes 2026 under the Enabling Environment category. Driven by BharatNet, the world's largest rural broadband project, the initiative establishes Samridh Kendras to deliver integrated "phygital" services—combining physical hubs with digital platforms—across critical sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance. Following the recent inauguration of India's first Samridh Kendra in Uruli Village, Madhya Pradesh, this scalable, community-based model is already transforming rural connectivity into tangible social and economic empowerment. Public voting to support the Samridh Gram project is currently open on the WSIS Stocktaking Platform and will conclude on May 3, 2026, ahead of the WSIS Forum in Geneva this July.

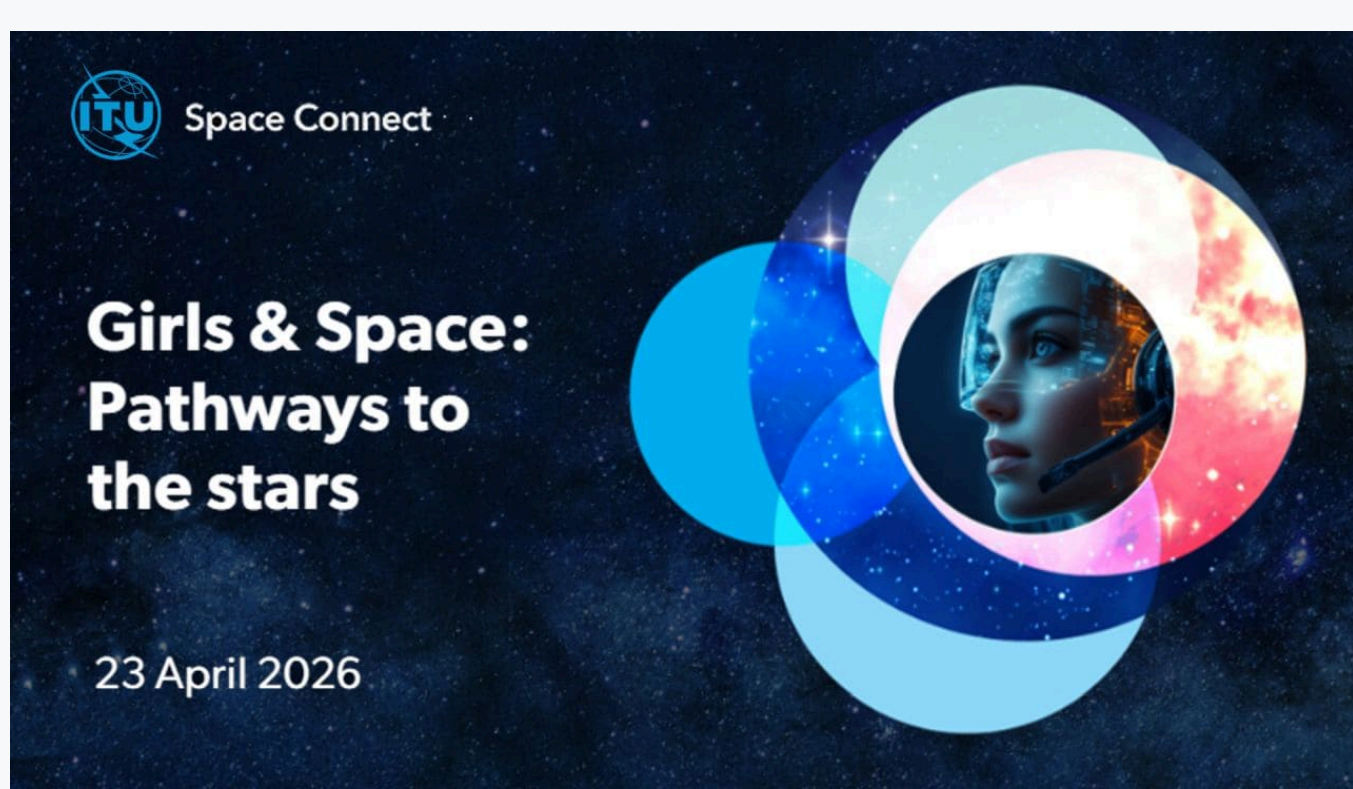
**Working Party-4C Meeting**



The 35th meeting of Working Party 4C (WP 4C), under Study Group 4 (SG 4) of the ITU-R, is currently taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, in a hybrid format. The meeting began on April 22, 2026, and will continue until May 1, 2026. WP 4C is responsible for "Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for the mobile-satellite service (MSS) and the radio-determination-satellite-service (RDSS)." Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of IAFI, is attending the meeting physically, while several other IAFI members are participating virtually.

WP 4C consists of two working groups: WG 4C1 and WG 4C2. A total of 213 contributions were submitted by various members, out of which 107 pertain to WG 4C1. Additionally, 84 contributions focus specifically on WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.13 (DC-MSS-IMT). IAFI submitted a contribution to the WP 4C meeting titled, "Updates to the Working Document draft CPM Text regarding Agenda Item 1.13." This agenda item deals with Direct Connectivity between MSS and IMT user equipment (DC-MSS-IMT) in the 694 MHz to 2.69 GHz range. The document proposes preliminary text for the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for WRC-27. Ultimately, this agenda item explores allowing Mobile-Satellite Services (MSS) to connect directly with standard terrestrial mobile devices (such as smartphones) to complement existing terrestrial network coverage.

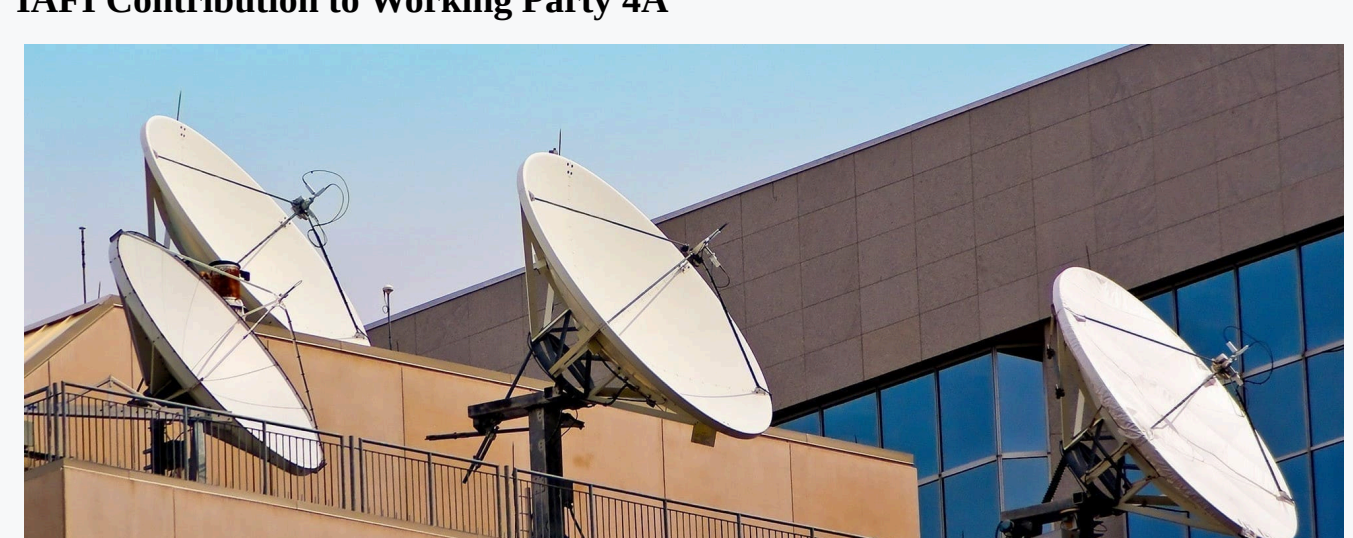
**IAFI Participation in ITU Space Connect Episode 3**



IAFI participated in the ITU Space Connect Episode-3, held concurrently with the thirty-fifth meeting of ITU-R Working Party 4C (WP 4C). The session focused on the intersection of space systems, artificial intelligence, and development, highlighting the critical need for girls and young women to actively participate in the design, operation, and governance of frontier technologies embedded in critical space networks.

Aligned with the global celebration of International Girls in ICT Day (April 23), the episode explored actionable pathways to bridge gender gaps in digital transformation and space technology. A panel of prominent figures at the cutting edge of the space and telecommunications industries, including Ms. Edith Hattie Kalagho, Ms. Agnes Chavez, and Dr. Maya Nasr, discussed key developments, tackled sector challenges, and shared insights on empowering the next generation of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

**IAFI Contribution to Working Party 4A**



IAFI submitted a contribution regarding the review of sharing conditions in the 13.75-14 GHz band under WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.2, which aims to enable the operation of Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS) uplink earth stations using smaller antenna sizes. IAFI proposed a streamlined method for "smart" regulatory flexibility by shifting the focus from rigid antenna diameters to constellation-specific EIRP density limits. This approach accommodates new and innovative satellite architectures while ensuring the robust protection of incumbent radiolocation and space research services.

It may be noted that the upcoming meeting of ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP 4A) will take place from May 4 to May 14, 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland, in a hybrid format.

**IAFI call for the dedicated National Anti-Scam Framework**

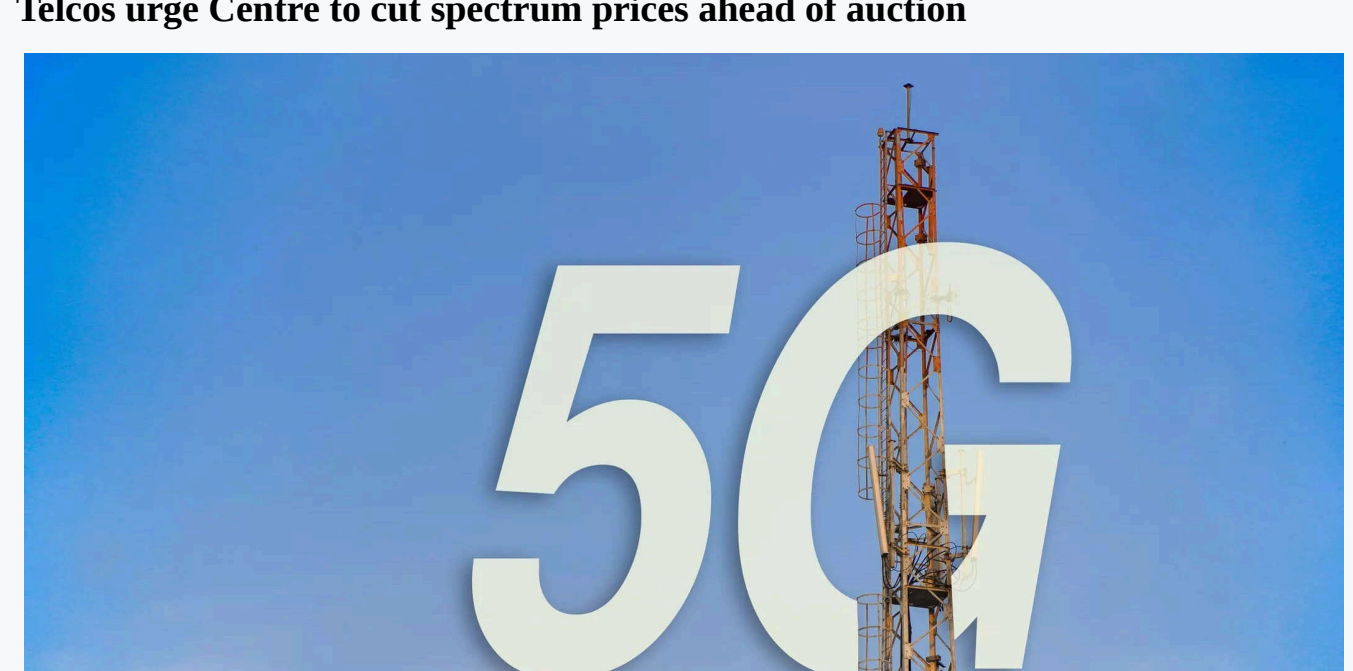


The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) in a Press Release, urged the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to fundamentally restructure its regulatory approach by structurally separating Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) from criminal scam communications. Noting that modern scams are sophisticated cybercrimes requiring distinct handling from standard enterprise spam, IAFI highlighted that the current unified framework disproportionately burdens telecom operators without effectively curbing fraud. To resolve this, IAFI has proposed a dual-track regulatory architecture: one track maintaining consent and compliance protocols for legitimate businesses, and a second, dedicated Scam and Fraud Prevention Framework designed to aggressively combat malicious actors through stringent KYC norms, real-time detection, and rapid blocking.

IAFI is also advocating for critical legal and institutional reforms, emphasized the need to grant telecom operators legal immunity to freely deploy AI-driven fraud detection tools. Furthermore, recognizing that scams operate across telecom, digital, and financial networks, IAFI recommended the creation of a unified cross-ministry task force and a centralized intelligence hub—modeled after Australia's National Anti-Scam Centre—to ensure seamless information sharing and coordinated enforcement across government agencies, service providers, and law enforcement.

Read More: <https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/iafi-calls-for-dedicated-national-anti-scam-framework/>

**Telcos urge Centre to cut spectrum prices ahead of auction**



Ahead of the next spectrum auction, the telecom industry body COAI has urged the government to lower bid prices, saying service providers have yet to recover their huge investments in 5G infrastructure, according to an official. COAI said that the industry expects the return to consider the massive investment made by telecom operators in 5G, without any return on investment. A spectrum cannot be just used by picking it up from the auction, but it has to be made usable with large investments.

The TRAI in February 2026 recommended that the government put the entire 11,790 MHz of available spectrum in the frequency bands of 600 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz for auction. The regulator's recommended base price values the entire spectrum at ₹2.1 lakh crore. The recommended price is estimated to be 19 per cent cheaper than prices recommended for the last auction held in 2022.

**TRAI Consultation Paper**

Consultation Paper	Submission Dates	Status
Consultation Paper for Satellite Communication Network Authorisation, and Assignment of Spectrum to Satellite Communication Network Providers	06th May 2026	Under Development

**Important Meeting that IAFI will attend**

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R: WP 4C – Efficient Orbit/Spectrum Utilization for MSS and RDSS	22nd April - 01st May 2026	10th April 2026
ITU-R: WP 4B – Systems, air interfaces, performance and availability objectives for FSS, BSS and MSS	29th April - 05th May 2026	17th April 2026
ITU-R: WP 4A – Efficient Orbit/Spectrum Utilization for FSS and BSS	04th - 14th May 2026	22nd April 2026
ITU-R: SG 4 – Satellite Services	15th May 2026	03rd May 2026
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 - 28th May 2026	07th May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5D – IMT Systems	27th May - 05th June 2026	15th May 2026
APT: The 3rd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-3)	27th - 31st July 2026	20th July 2026

**Telecom Stories:**



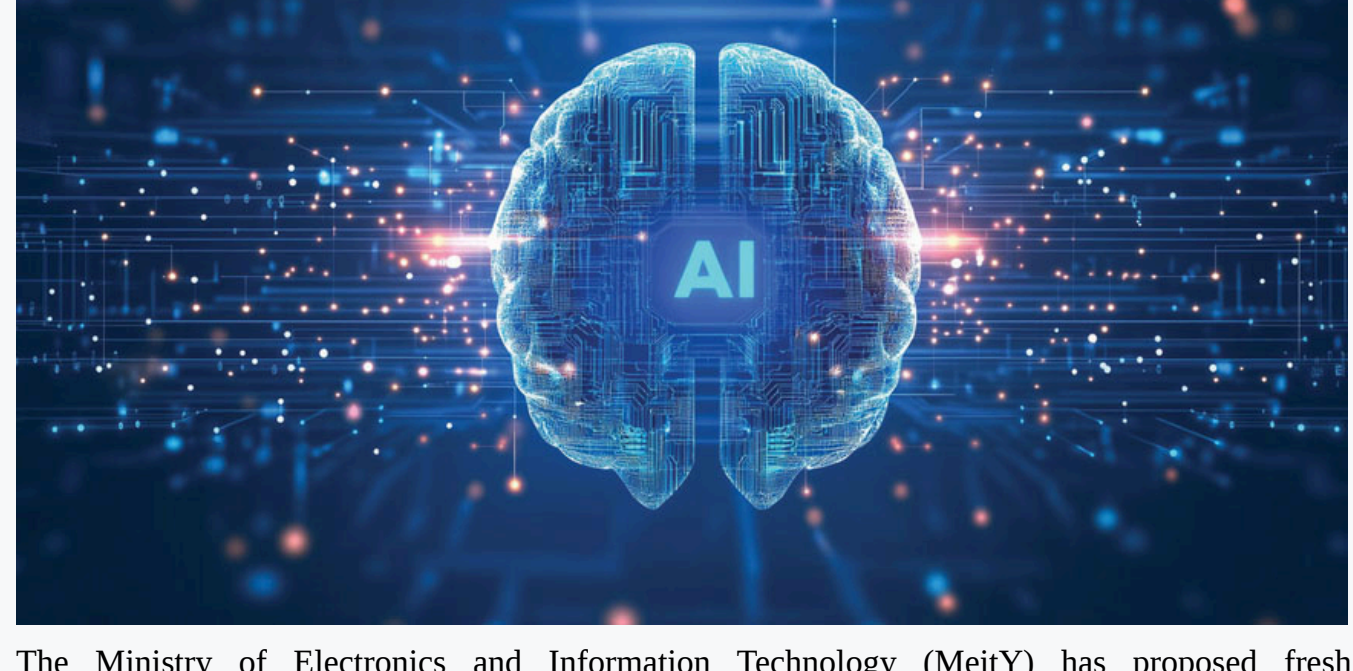
The Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, today released the revised guidelines for the Technology Development and Investment Promotion (TDIP) Scheme of the Department of Telecommunications, aimed at strengthening India's participation in global telecom standardization and accelerating the development of indigenous telecom technologies. Union Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani; Secretary (Telecommunications) and Chairman, Digital Communications Commission, Amit Agrawal also attended the event.

The revised TDIP Scheme, with a total outlay of ₹203 crore for the period 2026-31, has been designed as a comprehensive support framework to enable Indian entities to actively contribute to global standards, promote innovation, and enhance India's competitiveness in next-generation telecommunications technologies, including 5G Advanced and 6G.



Consumers are increasingly facing indoor connectivity issues as the quantity and speed of consumption of mobile data is growing, highlighting the urgent need for developers and building owners to proactively include connectivity infrastructure in construction plans, a top official of telecom regulatory body TRAI said.

While speaking at COAI Digicom Summit 2026, TRAI Chairman AK Lahoti said mobile networks alone may not be able to meet the demands of the data explosion, particularly with the advent of AI and therefore, the regulatory framework and policies are supporting the expansion of fixed broadband networks to handle consumers' requirements.



The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed fresh amendments to the IT Rules, tightening norms around the labelling of AI-generated content and opening the draft for public consultation until May 7.

Under the latest proposal, AI-generated or synthetically created content must carry a "continuous" and "clearly visible" label throughout its entire duration in any visual display.

"In the said rules, in rule 3, in sub-rule (3), in clause (a), in sub-clause (ii), for the words, "that ensures prominent visibility in the visual display", the words and punctuation "that ensures continuous and clearly visible display of such label throughout the duration of the content, in a visual display" shall be substituted," the IT Ministry said as per PTI.

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