

## IAFI News

### DoT De-licenses 6 GHz Band, Paving the Way for Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7 in India



In a pivotal decision poised to reshape India’s digital landscape, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued a landmark order delicensing 500 MHz of spectrum in the lower 6 GHz band (5925 MHz – 6425 MHz). Issue was consistently advocated by Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, at every level of the government, including with the DoT, the Hon’ble MoS and MoC, NITI Aayog, and the Hon’ble Prime Minister since last four years. IAFI warmly welcomed the Government’s notification, terming it a strategic milestone for the country’s telecom sector. He termed the move as a perfect complement to the ongoing rollout of 5G networks and a critical step toward future 6G readiness. By opening the lower 6 GHz band, will see a significant enhancement in indoor broadband speeds for homes and offices, which directly contributes to the country’s GDP growth. The decision is seen as a major boost to the **National Broadband Mission 2.0**. This significant policy shift eliminates the requirement for licenses or frequency assignments to operate Low Power Indoor and Very Low Power Outdoor wireless systems. Industry also welcomed the move as Game-changer policy, that will stimulate domestic manufacturing and foster AI innovation-led entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the availability of this spectrum is expected to accelerate the adoption of advanced digital technologies in critical sectors, including education, healthcare, industrial automation, and smart infrastructure.

22-01-2026 - <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/india-licenses-6ghz-band-for-next-gen-wi-fi-technology/126958261>

22-01-2026 - [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ashwani-jhunjhunwala-611b7613\\_a-great-initiative-to-empower-the-infrastructure-activity-7419932531074150401-3D8h/](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ashwani-jhunjhunwala-611b7613_a-great-initiative-to-empower-the-infrastructure-activity-7419932531074150401-3D8h/)

23-01-2026 - <https://www.broadcastandcablesat.co.in/govt-delicenses-lower-6-ghz-band-for-wi-fi-2%80%91-fi-industry-bodies-hail-landmark-reform/>

### TEC and NCCS host Stakeholder Meeting on Conformity Assessment Framework



The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) and the National Centre for Communication Security (NCCS) jointly convened a stakeholder meeting regarding the "Conformity Assessment and Certification of Telecommunication Equipment" on January 19, 2026. The session was held at Manak Hall, TEC, New Delhi, and was chaired by the Sr. DDG and Head, TEC, accompanied by various DDGs and officers from both TEC and NCCS. Industry participation was robust, with attendees including representatives from IAFI, TEMA, COAL, and various OEMs/vendors. The primary objective was to strengthen and streamline the existing framework for Conformity Assessment and Certification. Key outcomes and suggestions from the meeting includes (a) Industry Consultation- It was decided that TEC standards (GR/ER/ITSAR) will be finalized only after wide-ranging industry consultations (b) Family Grouping - A suggestion was made to rationalize and streamline the Family Grouping guidelines - It was proposed that a MATCOF be convened to discuss the potential re- alignment of these guidelines (c) Implementation Timeline - Stakeholders suggested that a gestation period of 18 months be provided for any new networking products notified in the future and (d) Rationalized Re-testing - It was suggested that re-testing should not be mandated for minor variations, such as a change in hash value due to port density upgrade (e.g., from 4 to 8 ports) and a holistic assessment of such changes should be adopted instead.

### Meeting of the Task Group for NSG-6



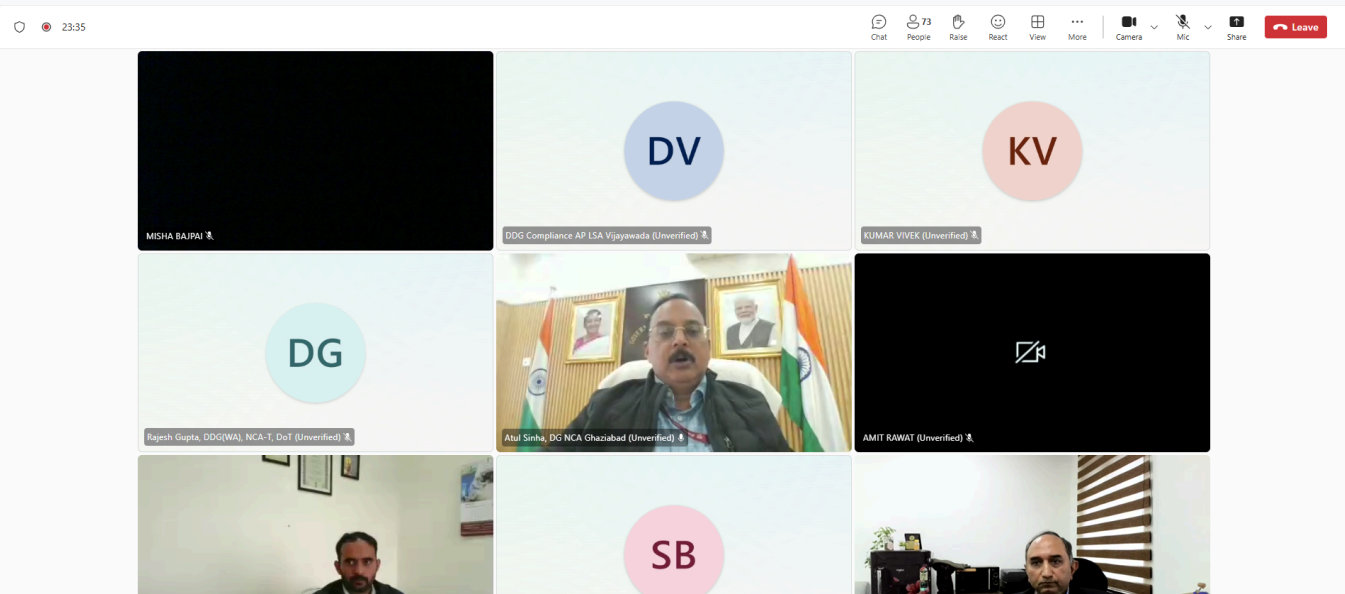
The 10th meeting of National Study Group 6 (NSG-6) was convened in hybrid mode on January 21, 2026, at Sanchar Bhawan, DoT. The primary objective was to finalize contributions for the upcoming ITU-R Working Party 6A (WP-6A) meeting. The session opened with remarks from Shri N.K. Bhola, JWA and OSD to WA, WPC/DoT. Key attendees included Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI; Shri Rajeev Kumar, DDG Akashvani and Chairman, NWP-6; Shri Puneet Rathore, Lead Technical Assistant, Qualcomm; and Shri Arun Kumar, JWA and Coordinator, NSG-6. The central agenda item was the discussion and finalization of an IAFI contribution proposing revisions to Report ITU-R BT.2049-8. While a consensus was not reached during the previous Task Group meeting, Shri Jitendra Singh, Sr. Director, Qualcomm submitted a revised version for this session. Following a detailed discussion and subsequent editorial updates, the document was successfully finalized. Additionally, the group accepted Shri Bhatia's recommendation to append the Work Plan to the submission.

### IAFI Contributions to WP-5D meeting



IAFI submitted five contributions to the upcoming 51st WP-5D meeting, to be held from 03-12 Feb, 2026, at Geneva, Switzerland in a hybrid mode. Contributions has been uploaded on WP-5D portal (1) C-1054: Further updates to working document on studies for the regulatory considerations to protect terrestrial IMT systems under WRC-27 agenda item 1.13 (2) C-1055: Proposed revision to the working document on the update of Report ITU-R M.2291-2 and draft liaison statement to 3GPP (3) C-1056: Proposed updates to the working document towards a preliminary draft new Report ITU-R M.[IMT-FOR-FWBB-ACCESS] - Technical and operational feasibility of providing fixed wireless broadband access using IMT technology in mobile service bands identified for IMT (4) C-1057: Further updates to the elements of a working document towards preliminary draft CPM text for WRC-27 agenda item 1.7 and (5) C-1058: Proposed updates to the Report ITU-R

### Webinar by NCA-T Ghaziabad regarding Terrestrial and Non-Terrestrial Network Integration



IAFI members attended a webinar titled “Terrestrial and Non-Terrestrial Networks Integration - Enabling Ubiquitous Connectivity,” organized by the National Communication Academy Technology (NCA-T), Ghaziabad, under DoT. The webinar provided a comprehensive overview of the interworking between 5G Terrestrial and Non-Terrestrial Networks (TN–NTN). Key discussions focused on the architecture and operational frameworks required to utilize satellite and aerial platforms for extending 5G coverage and paving the way for emerging 6G technologies. The session also highlighted ongoing standardization efforts and the regulatory landscape governing the deployment of these integrated networks. The proceedings commenced with an inaugural address by Shri Atul Sinha (DG, NCA-T), followed by a special address from Shri Rajesh Gupta (DDG Wireless Access, NCA-T) and a keynote by Shri Prachish Khanna (DDG Media, DoT HQ). Session-1 was regarding the 5G and 6G Terrestrial and Non-Terrestrial Interworking and Integration - Overview and Standardization by Ms. Ranjana Sivaram, DDG (SMC), DoT and Session-2 was regarding - Regulatory and Technological Trends in Terrestrial and Non-Terrestrial Networks Integration by Sh. Arun Aggarwal, DDG (Satellite) DOT HQ.

### Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

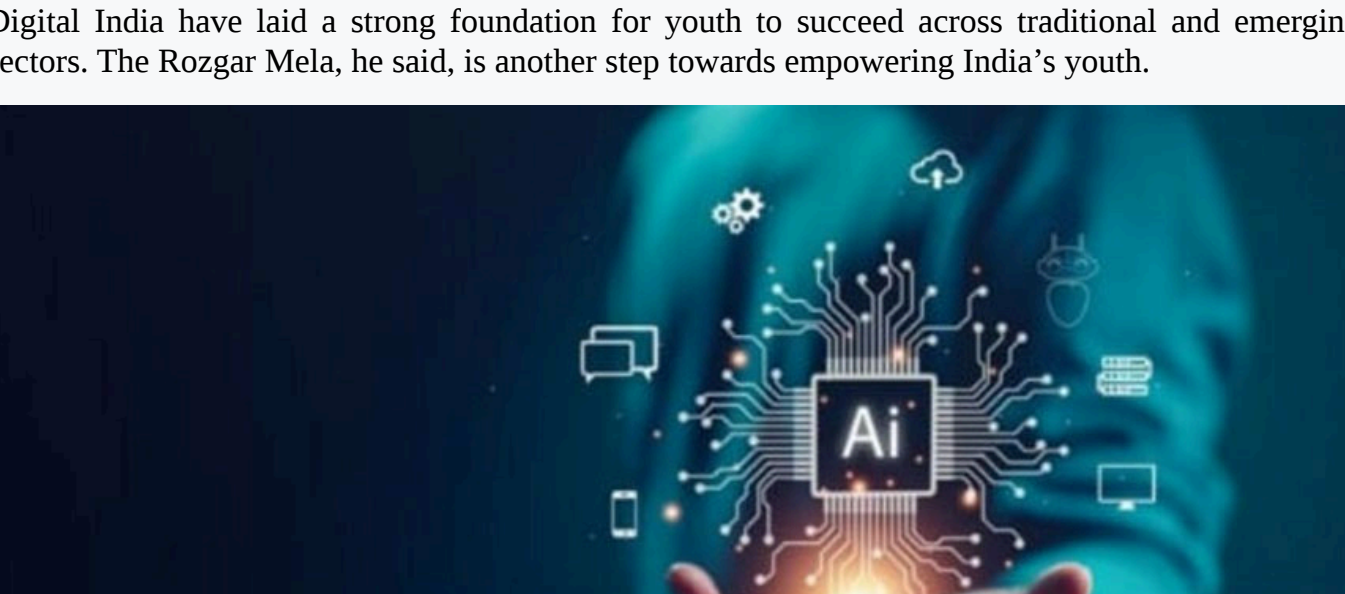
| Meeting   | Dates                       | Submission Dates |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <a href="#">APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026</a> | 28th - 29th Jan 2026        | 18th Jan 2026    |
| <a href="#">ITU: ITU-T SG3 Regional Group for Asia and Oceania (SG3RC-AO)</a>                                 | 10th Feb 2026               | 28th Jan 2026    |
| <a href="#">ITU: Working Party 5D (WP 5D) - IMT Systems</a>   | 03rd Feb - 12th Feb 2026    | 22nd Jan 2026    |
| <a href="#">ITU: Collaboration on ITS Communication Standards</a>   | 16th March 2026             | 03rd March 2026  |
| <a href="#">APT: The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026</a> | 30th March - 2nd April 2026 | 20th March 2026  |
| <a href="#">APT: The 36th Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-36)</a>                                      | 06th - 19th April 2026      | 28th Mar 2026    |
| <a href="#">APT: The 38th APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-38)</a>                                    | 20th - 24th April 2026      | 20th April 2026  |

### Telecom Stories:



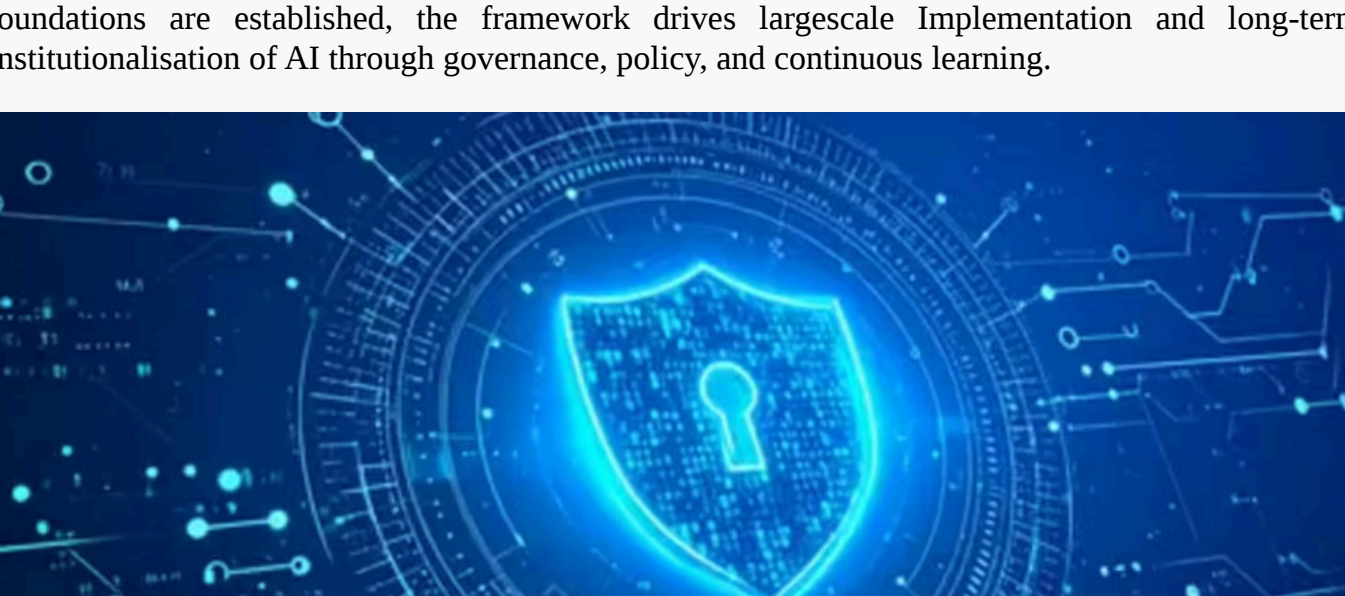
Union Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Dr Pemasani Chandra Sekhar today, addressed a Rozgar Mela at ITBP RTC, Shivagangai, Tamil Nadu, as part of the Union Government’s ongoing efforts to promote employment generation and youth empowerment. Across the participating departments of ITBP, BSF, CISF, SSB, DFS (Union Bank of India), ISRO and Assam Rifles, offers of appointment were handed over to a total of 148 candidates at the venue today. The Minister of State, in his speech, said that the Rozgar Mela is not just about appointment letters, but about creating opportunities, dignity and a stronger nation.

Dr Pemasani Chandra Sekhar stated that India is witnessing a historic transformation under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, guided by the mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas. He noted that initiatives such as Skill India, Make in India and Digital India have laid a strong foundation for youth to succeed across traditional and emerging sectors. The Rozgar Mela, he said, is another step towards empowering India’s youth.



PwC India launched its flagship report, AI Edge for Viksit Bharat, at the World Economic Forum in Davos. According to PwC’s economic modelling, AI has the potential to contribute USD 550 billion to five priority sectors – agriculture, education, energy, healthcare and manufacturing – by 2035 at a nominal level. The report positions India as a potential global benchmark for how emerging economies can deploy artificial intelligence in a manner that is both transformative and equitable.

At the heart of the report is PwC’s proprietary 3A2I framework – a national, system-level playbook designed to make AI function as a connected “central nervous system” for India’s development. The model builds Access to data, infrastructure and skills; fosters Acceptance through trust, transparency and ethical safeguards; and enables Assimilation by embedding AI into real workflows. Once these foundations are established, the framework drives largescale Implementation and long-term Institutionalisation of AI through governance, policy, and continuous learning.



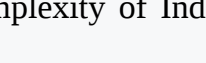
The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is likely to shorten the implementation timeline for certain provisions under the administrative rules of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act for significant data fiduciaries (SDFs) to 12 months from the earlier 18 months.

The changes were proposed by the ministry during a stakeholder meeting.

Big-tech companies and social media intermediaries, such as Meta, Google, Amazon, and Microsoft, along with most major banking, financial services and insurance institutions, will fall under the SDF category.

The proposed move is likely to face pushback from industry players, who have been seeking relaxation on the 18-month deadline, citing the complexity of India’s data landscape, the sources added.

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](http://iafi.in)

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