

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

The World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23)

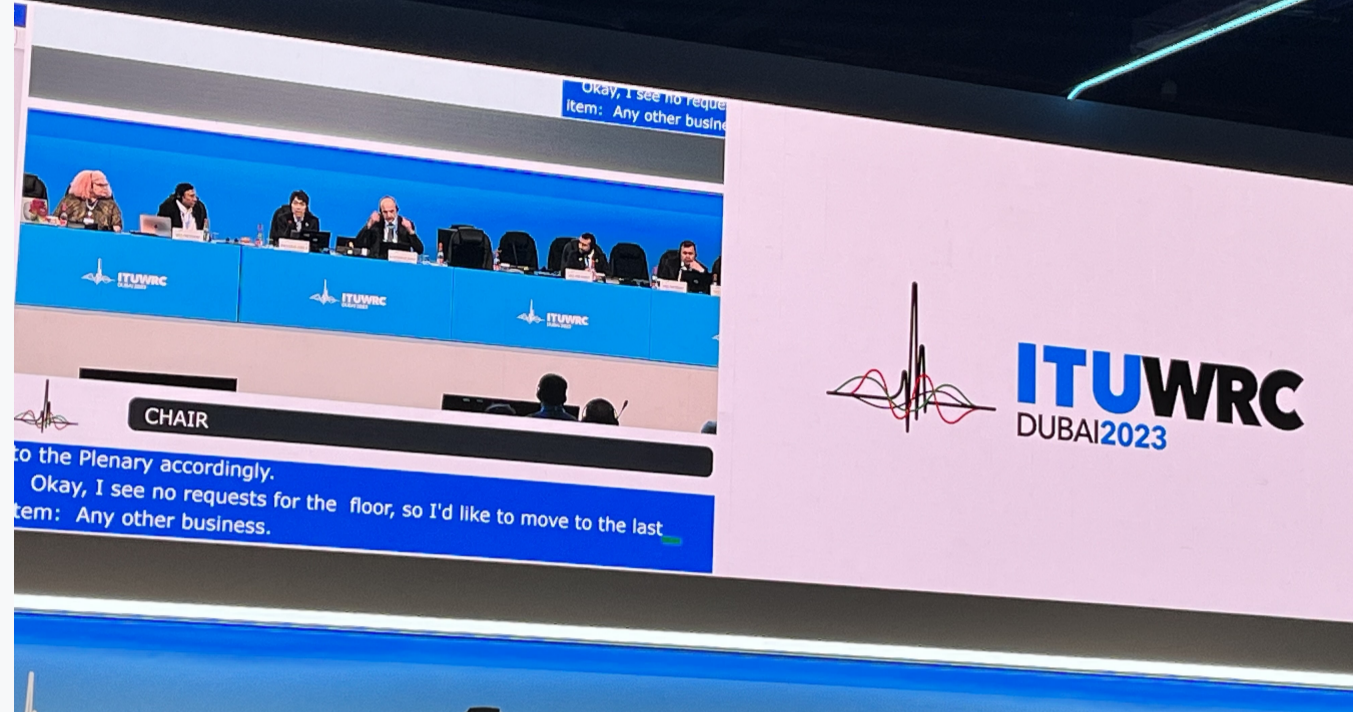


The flagship event of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23), is currently in progress at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, spanning from 20th November to 15th December 2023. A significant contingent of Indian delegates, led by the Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), representatives from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and President IAFI with many others actively engaged in the conference. Their participation aimed to contribute valuable expertise and support to the Indian delegation.

The World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) stands as the most prestigious international event organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Convening representatives of governments, industry, and academia, WRC-23 serves as a crucial platform to deliberate and reach consensus on the utilization of the radio-frequency spectrum. Held every three to four years, WRC-23 meticulously reviews and, when deemed necessary, revises the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the allocation of the radio-frequency spectrum and the orbits of geostationary and non-geostationary satellites.

The process of refining documents for WRC-23 has involved a meticulous and comprehensive series of steps since WRC-19, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from October 28, 2019, to November 22, 2019. Directly following WRC-19, CPM23-1 convened from November 25 to 26, 2019, to finalize the agenda for WRC-23 and established a preliminary agenda for WRC-27. CPM23-1 strategically allocated work among various study groups, which then embarked on a four-year period of continuous research and analysis. The outcomes of these studies were meticulously compiled into draft CPM text. Subsequently, CPM23-2 convened from March 27 to April 6, 2023, to consolidate the findings of the study groups and refine the draft CPM text. The revised documents underwent further scrutiny and approval by RA-23, which formulated recommendations and revised ITU-R resolutions for final consideration at WRC-23. This rigorous and collaborative process has ensured that the documents presented at WRC-23 are well-informed, comprehensive, and representative of the diverse perspectives of the ITU membership. Opening remarks of the Secretary General, ITU inaugurating the WRC-23 event can be seen through the following link. [Click Here](#)

Shri Bhatia, President IAFI appointed as Vice-chair for WRC-23 work



The Secretary-General, ITU, through a document dated 20-11-2023, announced the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chairpersons for the committees established to ensure the seamless operation of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23). Notably, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI has been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson for Committee-4. He is the sole representative from India or the entire Indian subcontinent to hold such a position, highlighting his significant role in the WRC-23 proceedings.

It is crucial to note that Committee-4 holds responsibility for addressing some of the most sensitive matters for WRC-23. These include the examination of frequency band 4 800-4 990 MHz, safeguarding stations of aeronautical and maritime mobile services, and evaluating the identification of frequency bands such as 3 300-3 400 MHz, 3 600-3 800 MHz, 6 425-7 025 MHz, 7 025-7 125 MHz, and 10.0-10.5 GHz for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT). Additionally, Committee-4 is tasked with deliberating on issues related to High-Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS) for IMT, aeronautical and maritime mobile services, Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), amateur service, amateur-satellite service, and various other critical concerns.

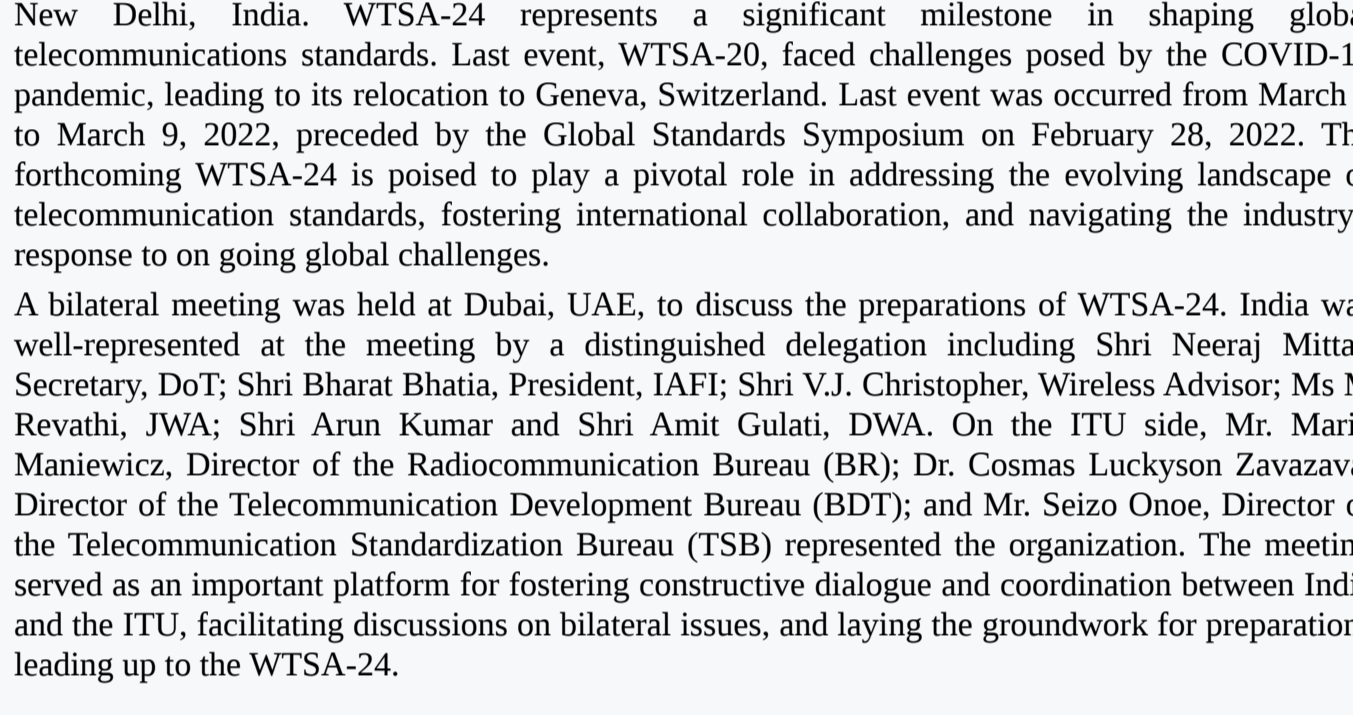
Bilateral meeting between India and ITU regarding upcoming WTSA-2024



The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 (WTSA-24), a quadrennial event, a crucial platform for the ITU-T, is scheduled to be held from October 15 to October 24, 2024, in New Delhi, India. WTSA-24 represents a significant milestone in shaping global telecommunications standards. Last event, WTSA-20, faced challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to its relocation to Geneva, Switzerland. Last event was occurred from March 1 to March 9, 2022, preceded by the Global Standards Symposium on February 28, 2022. The forthcoming WTSA-24 is poised to play a pivotal role in addressing the evolving landscape of telecommunication standards, fostering international collaboration, and navigating the industry's response to on-going global challenges.

A bilateral meeting was held at Dubai, UAE, to discuss the preparations of WTSA-24. India was well-represented at the meeting by a distinguished delegation including Shri Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, DoT; Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI; Shri V.J. Christopher, Wireless Advisor; Ms M Revathi, JWA; Shri Arun Kumar and Shri Amit Gulati, DWA. On the ITU side, Mr. Mario Maniewicz, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR); Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT); and Mr. Seizo Onoe, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) represented the organization. The meeting served as an important platform for fostering constructive dialogue and coordination between India and the ITU, facilitating discussions on bilateral issues, and laying the groundwork for preparations leading up to the WTSA-24.

Joint meeting organized by WWRF, IAFI and TII with Secretary General, ITU



WWRF, TII and IAFI organized a joint meeting with the Secretary General, ITU at Dubai, UAE on 21-11-2023, to discuss the various future challenges related to radio communication, International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), satellite communication, and issues pertaining to aeronautical and maritime mobile services. WWRF stands out as a distinctive forum where the wireless community collaboratively addresses pivotal research challenges, aiming to promote research initiatives that foster unbounded communications to tackle key societal challenges in the future.

All participants expressed a mutual commitment to fostering collaboration on research, development, and policy initiatives to address the identified challenges. Meeting proved a valuable platform for exchanging insights, addressing challenges, and fostering collaboration between WWRF, TII, IAFI, and ITU. The organizations expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue and look forward to continued collaboration on critical issues in the field of telecommunications.

Dinner reception organized by WWRF/IAFI on 24-11-2023



The World Wireless Research Foundation (WWRF), in collaboration IAFI, organized a networking dinner on 24-11-2023 in Dubai, coinciding with the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23). The dinner attracted delegates from diverse countries, representatives from various industries, and senior figures from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), including the Secretary-General of ITU.

TRAI Consultation Papers

Consultation Papers	Submission Dates	Status
Open and de-licensed use of unused or limited used spectrum bands for demand generation for limited period in tera hertz range	29th Nov 2023	Under Development
Assignment of spectrum in E&V bands, and spectrum for microwave access (MWA) & microwave Backbone (MWB)	13th Dec 2023	Under Development
Digital Transformation through 5G Ecosystem	26th Dec 2023	Under Development

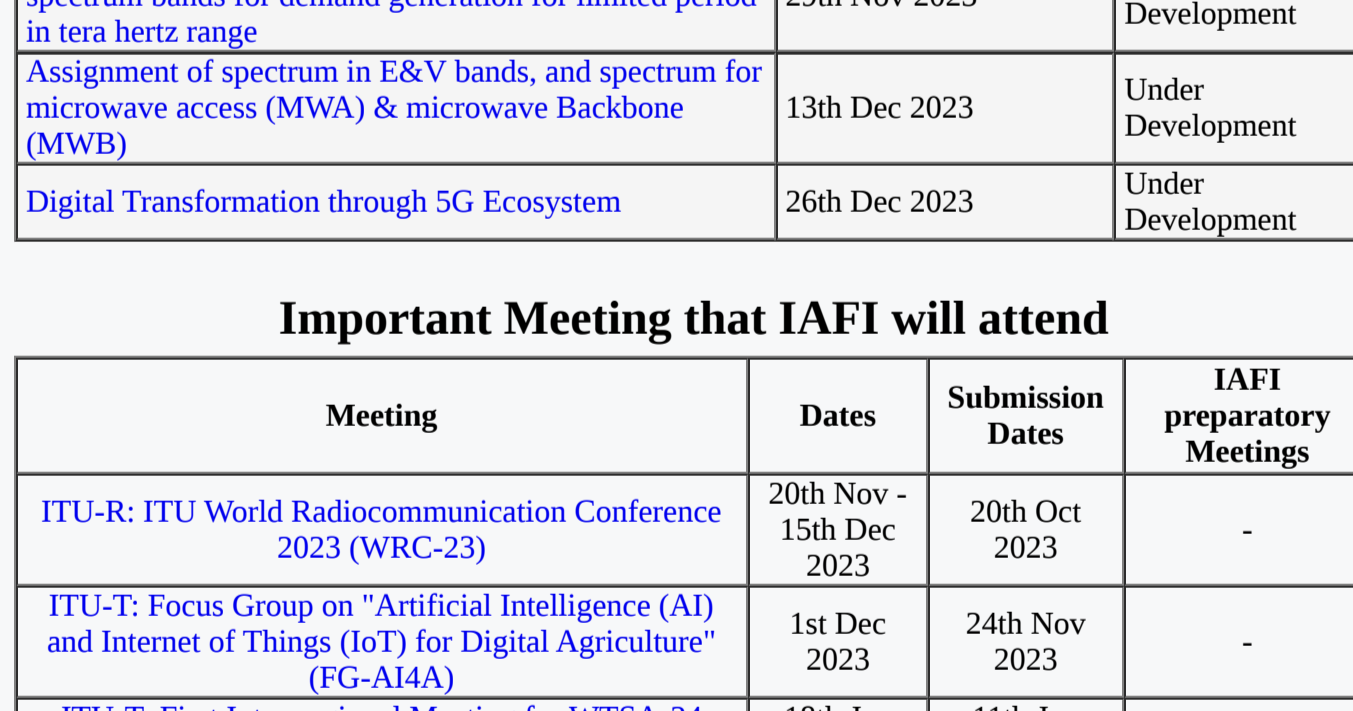
Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI preparatory Meetings
ITU-R: ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23)	20th Nov - 15th Dec 2023	20th Oct 2023	-
ITU-T: Focus Group on "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) for Digital Agriculture" (FG-A14A)	1st Dec 2023	24th Nov 2023	-
ITU-T: First Inter-regional Meeting for WTSA-24 Preparation	18th Jan 2024	11th Jan 2024	-
ITU-R: Forty-fifth meeting of Working Party 5D	31st Jan - 7th Feb 2024	24th Jan 2024	20th Dec 2023

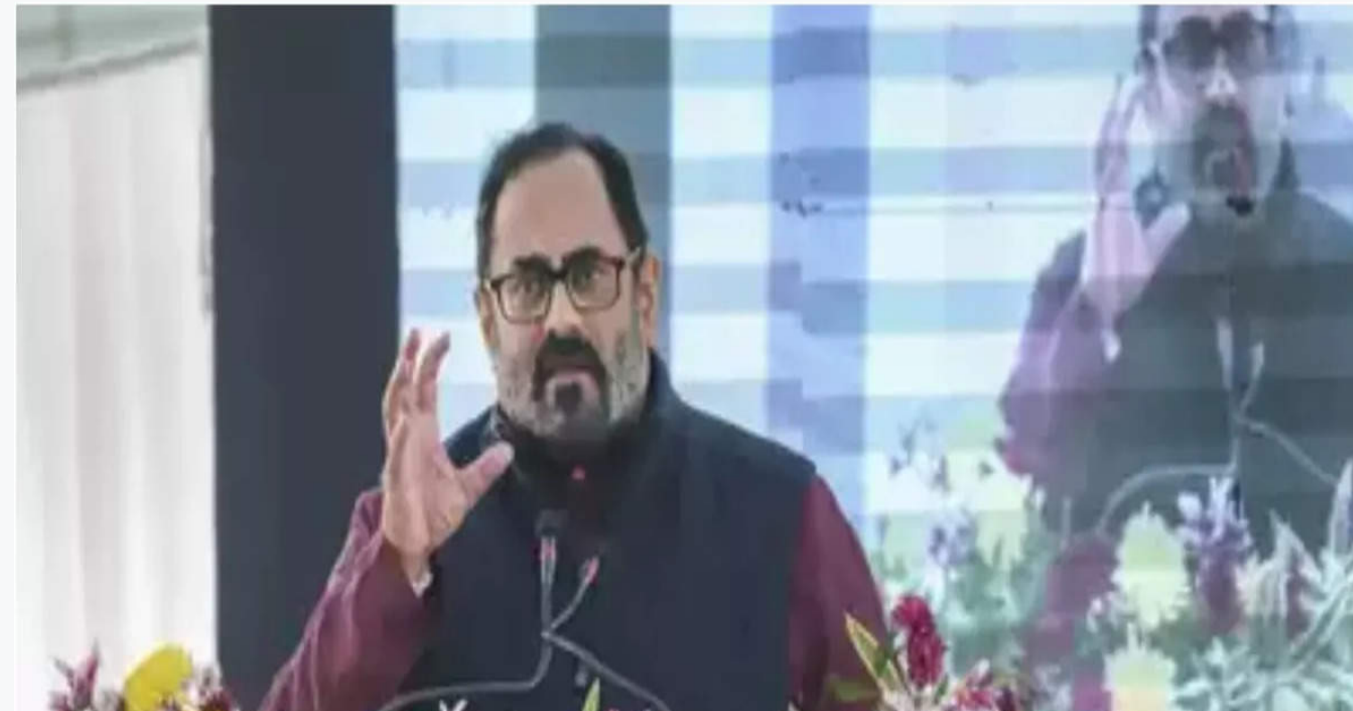
Telecom Stories:



The minister of state for IT and electronics said that while artificial intelligence (AI) is one of the biggest inventions of recent times, the government is committed to ensuring the safety of users on digital platforms, given that India is one of the largest connected nations in the world with almost 850 million Indians already using the internet and 1.2 billion estimated to do so by 2025-26.



India and the European Union have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on semiconductors that covers cooperation in areas such as research and innovation, talent development, partnerships and exchange of market information, the External Affairs Ministry said Friday. The MoU was signed ahead of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council that was held in the virtual format on Friday. The Trade and Technology Council meeting was co-chaired on the Indian side by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav.



The Union Government is considering publishing an updated version of the production linked incentive (PLI) plan for telecom equipment, and is also accepting new applications. The government is full with a surplus outlay of over Rs 1,500 crore with less than half of the 42 enterprises fulfilling their targets for FY23. Officials with access to the information told the Economic Times that certain new telecom networking products should qualify for incentives under the updated plan. During conversations, a few companies had already expressed interest in the amended strategy. "Some firms have not met the sales targets because the orders got a bit delayed in the runup to 5G roll out. Now things have streamlined, and the majority of the firms would meet the targets next year," an official told ET.

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