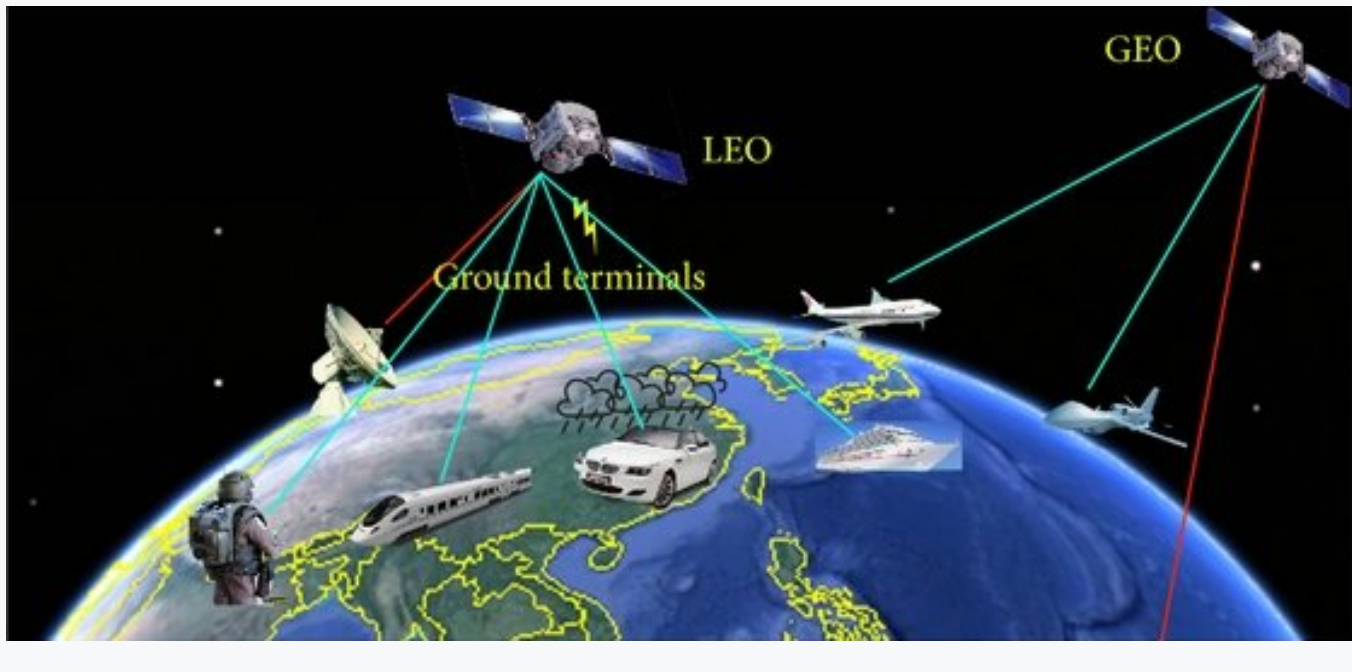


IAFI News

Working Party 4C Meeting



The 34th meeting of ITU-R Working Party 4C (WP4C) was held in Geneva from 15–24 October 2025 in hybrid mode. WP4C deals with efficient orbit and spectrum utilization for the Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) and the Radio Determination Satellite Service (RDSS). IAFI was represented by Shri Bharat Bhatia, Shri Jitendra Singh, and Mr. Sundil Kumar (Ericsson), with other members joining virtually. A total of 172 contributions were discussed, including 57 on WRC Agenda Item 1.13 concerning MSS in IMT. China led submissions with 27, and India contributed four papers.

Working Party 4B Meeting



The 57th meeting of ITU-R Working Party 4B (WP4B) is underway in Geneva from 22–28 October 2025 in hybrid format. WP4B focuses on systems, air interfaces, and performance parameters for FSS, BSS, and MSS, including IP-based applications and satellite news gathering. A total of 45 contributions were reviewed. IAFI presented one paper (C-167) proposing a preliminary draft new ITU-R Report on “Satellite–Terrestrial and Satellite IoT Solutions for Remote Sparsely Populated Areas,” aimed at promoting broadband connectivity through hybrid systems.

50th Working Party 5D Meeting



The 50th meeting of ITU-R Working Party 5D (WP5D) was held from 7–16 October 2025 in Geneva, marking 17 years of contributions to global IMT standards. The session focused on the IMT-2030 (6G) framework and WRC Agenda Item 1.7. IAFI was represented by Shri Bharat Bhatia, Shri Jitendra Singh, and others from industry. The meeting reviewed 195 documents, making major progress on defining 6G technical performance requirements, evaluation criteria, and spectrum compatibility in the 4.4–4.8 GHz, 7.125–8.4 GHz, and 14.8–15.35 GHz bands. IAFI’s active role ensured India’s interests were reflected in global 6G developments. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2026 in Geneva.

G.S.R. 771(E) – Telecom Cyber Security Rules 2025



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has finalized and issued the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Amendment Rules, 2025, through Gazette Notification G.S.R. 771(E). These rules extend cybersecurity compliance obligations beyond traditional telecom operators to digital service providers. A new category—Telecommunication Identifier User Entity (TIUE)—has been introduced for non-licensed entities such as e-commerce, fintech, and OTT platforms using telecom identifiers for customer verification. The amendment aims to enhance protection against cyber fraud and misuse of identifiers like IMEIs and mobile numbers.

IAFI Urges DoT to Align New Authorisation Rules with TRAI



IAFI welcomed the DoT’s draft Telecommunications Rules, 2025 under the new Telecommunications Act, 2023 but expressed concern over deviations from TRAI’s expert recommendations of 2024 and 2025. The Foundation urged the DoT to align the framework with TRAI’s approach to maintain policy consistency, investor confidence, and regulatory clarity. IAFI proposed that satellite-based telecom services should have a distinct authorisation category rather than being treated as an extension of terrestrial access service. It also recommended rationalising high licence fees, inclusion of VPN and CNPN services under Internet Authorisation, and greater operational flexibility to foster investment and innovation.

National Working Group 3 (NWG-3) Meeting



The 4th meeting of National Working Group 3 (NWG-3), corresponding to ITU-T Study Group 3 on “Tariff and Accounting Principles and International Telecommunications/ICT Economic and Policy Issues,” was held on 15 October 2025 at Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi. Chaired by Member (Finance), DoT, the meeting reviewed proposals including (1) a cost model for satellite internet services, (2) a study on network slicing in international telecom ecosystems, and (3) India’s framework for telecom authorisation fees and revenue practices. These contributions will be finalised for the upcoming SG-3 meeting in November 2025.

ITU-T Study Group 21 Meeting



The ITU-T Study Group 21 (SG-21) meeting took place from 6–17 October 2025 in Geneva, focusing on multimedia technologies and applications for future networks. India and IAFI jointly submitted contribution C-278R2 proposing a new Recommendation ITU-T J.STB-UHDMUVR on “Functional Requirements for Cable Set-top Boxes Supporting Ultra-High-Definition and Multi-User Virtual Reality Services.” The proposal, which aims to enhance family-level immersive entertainment, was well received and approved for further development.

DoT Proposes 5% AGR as Satcom Spectrum Fee



The DoT plans to recommend a 5% Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) usage charge for future networks, replacing TRAI’s earlier suggestion of a fixed Rs. 500 per user annually in urban areas. The department found the fixed charge impractical due to verification issues and proposed a uniform AGR-based model for easier compliance. This revised structure will apply to emerging satellite broadband operators such as Starlink, Eutelsat OneWeb, and Jio Satellite, who are awaiting spectrum allocation to launch commercial services in India.

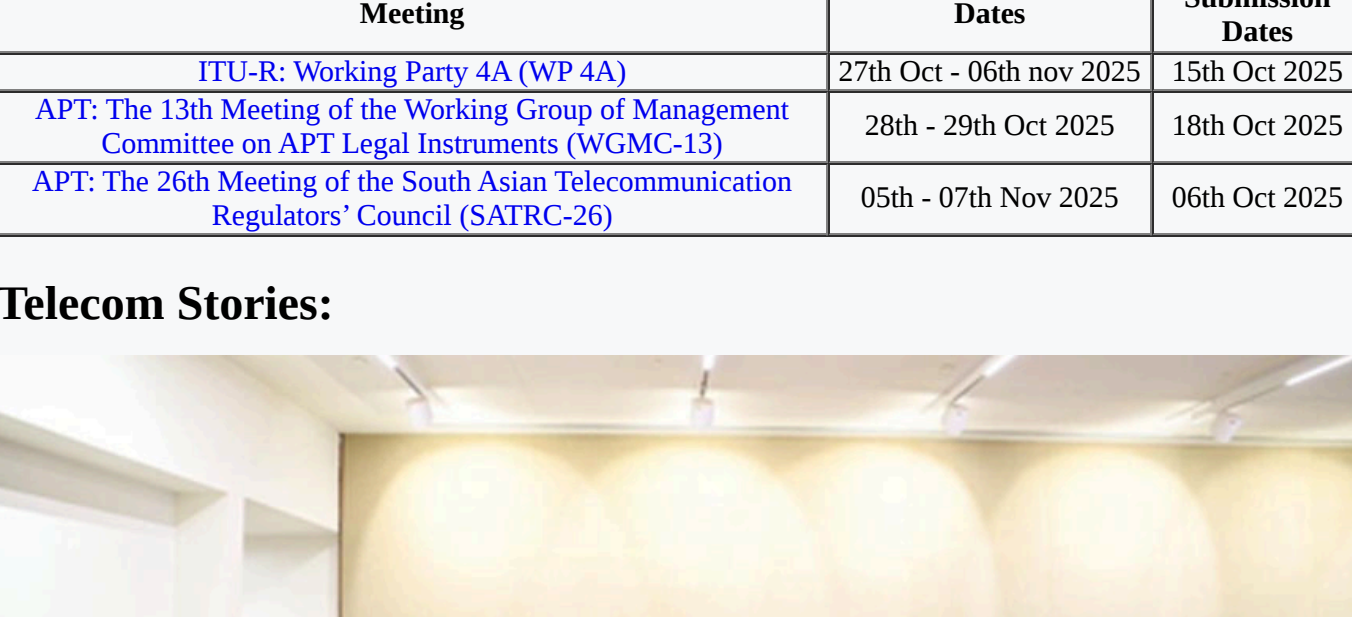
TRAI Consultation Paper

Consultation Paper	Submission Dates	Status
The Auction of Radio Frequency Spectrum in the Frequency Bands Identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT)	28th Oct 2025	Under Development

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R: Working Party 4A (WP 4A)	27th Oct - 06th nov 2025	15th Oct 2025
APT: The 13th Meeting of the Working Group of Management Committee on APT Legal Instruments (WGMC-13)	28th - 29th Oct 2025	18th Oct 2025
APT: The 26th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-26)	05th - 07th Nov 2025	06th Oct 2025

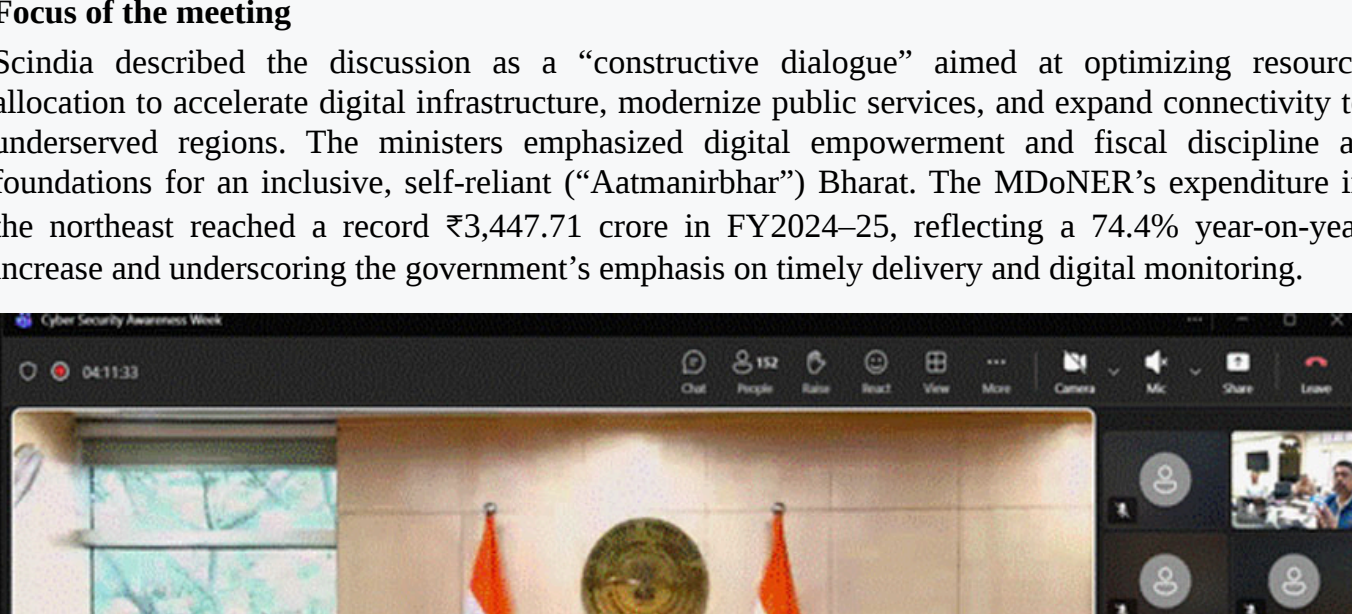
Telecom Stories:



Union Ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia and Nirmala Sitharaman recently held discussions focused on accelerating India’s digital and regional connectivity through capital expenditure optimization, indigenous technology, and inter-ministerial collaboration. The meeting marked a coordinated effort to strengthen infrastructure supporting the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (MDoNER), and India Post.

Focus of the meeting

Scindia described the discussion as a “constructive dialogue” aimed at optimizing resource allocation to accelerate digital infrastructure, modernize public services, and expand connectivity to underserved regions. The ministers emphasized digital empowerment and fiscal discipline as foundations for an inclusive, self-reliant (“Aatmanirbhar”) Bharat. The MDoNER’s expenditure in the northeast reached a record ₹3,447.71 crore in FY2024–25, reflecting a 74.4% year-on-year increase and underscoring the government’s emphasis on timely delivery and digital monitoring.



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is celebrating October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month. As part of the campaign, the Director General Telecom (DGT HQ), DoT, organised an insightful webinar on 24th October 2025 to promote a culture of cyber awareness and resilience in the digital ecosystem. The sessions brought together industry experts, professionals, and participants from across the telecom sector to deliberate on emerging cyber threats, governance challenges, and strategies for building phishing-resilient organisations.



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Friday said it will temporarily suspend the acceptance of new applications for telecom licenses until notifications on the authorisation framework under the Telecommunication Act, 2023, are issued.

However, applications already submitted up to this date will continue to be processed, it said.

“As the transition to the authorisation regime under the Telecommunication Act, 2023 is presently underway, certain regulatory uncertainties and administrative complexities may arise in respect of new applications,” it reasoned.

In order to address this, it has been decided, as an interim measure, to suspend acceptance of new applications for issuance of Unified License, Unified License (VNO), Standalone Licenses, Registrations, Permissions, and No Objection Certificate, with effect from November 10, it said.

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