

IAFI News

Meeting of the Working Party 4C at Shanghai, China

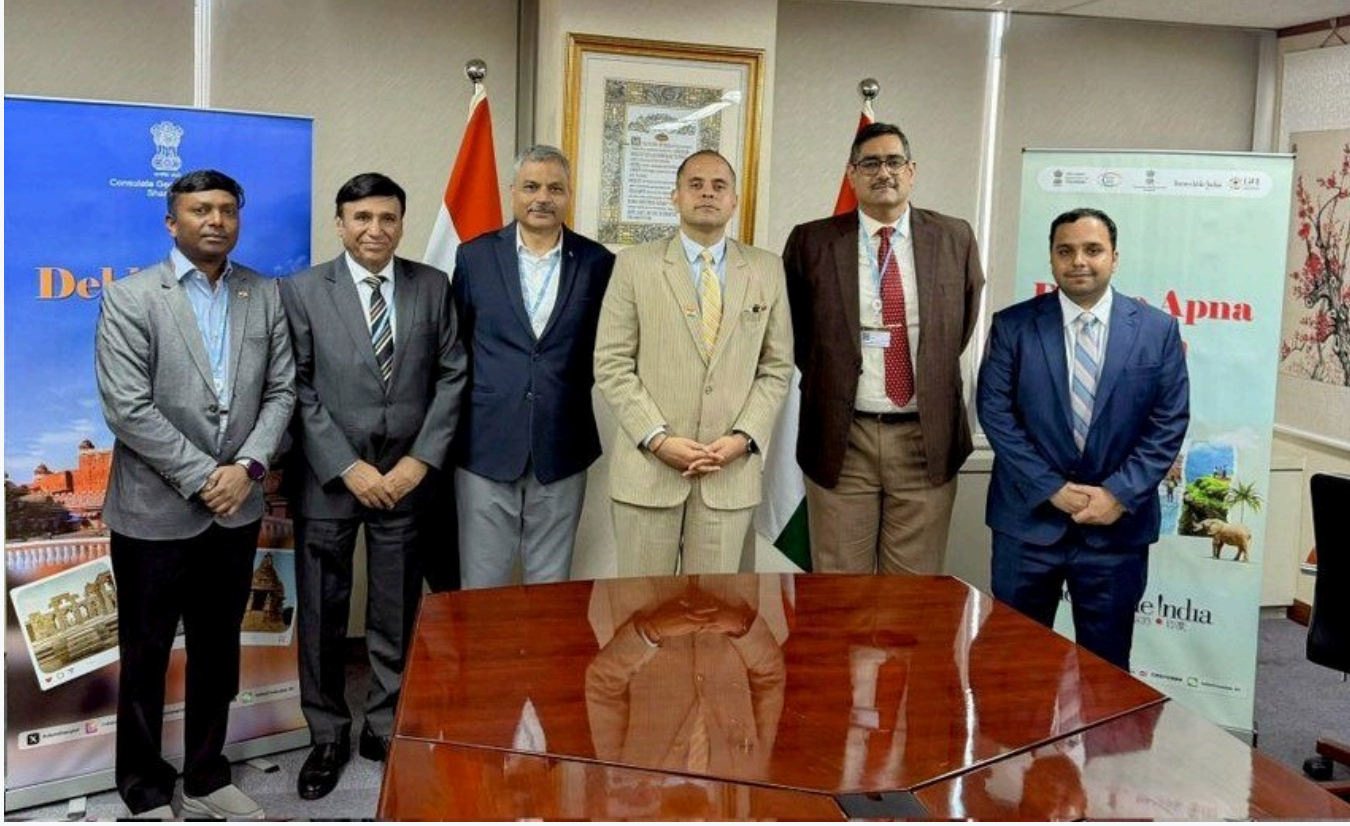


The International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Working Party 4C (WP4C) started in Shanghai, China, from April 23rd, facilitating both in-person and remote participation. Hosted by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government.

WP4C deals with Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for the Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) and Radiodetermination-Satellite Service (RDSS). The meeting of Working Party 4C commenced on April 23rd and is scheduled to continue until May 2nd, 2025. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, Shri Jitendra Singh, Vice Chairman IAFI and Shri Sendil Kumar Devar, corporate member IAFI are attending the WP-4C meeting in person as part of the Indian delegation. Many other IAFI members are also participating virtually.

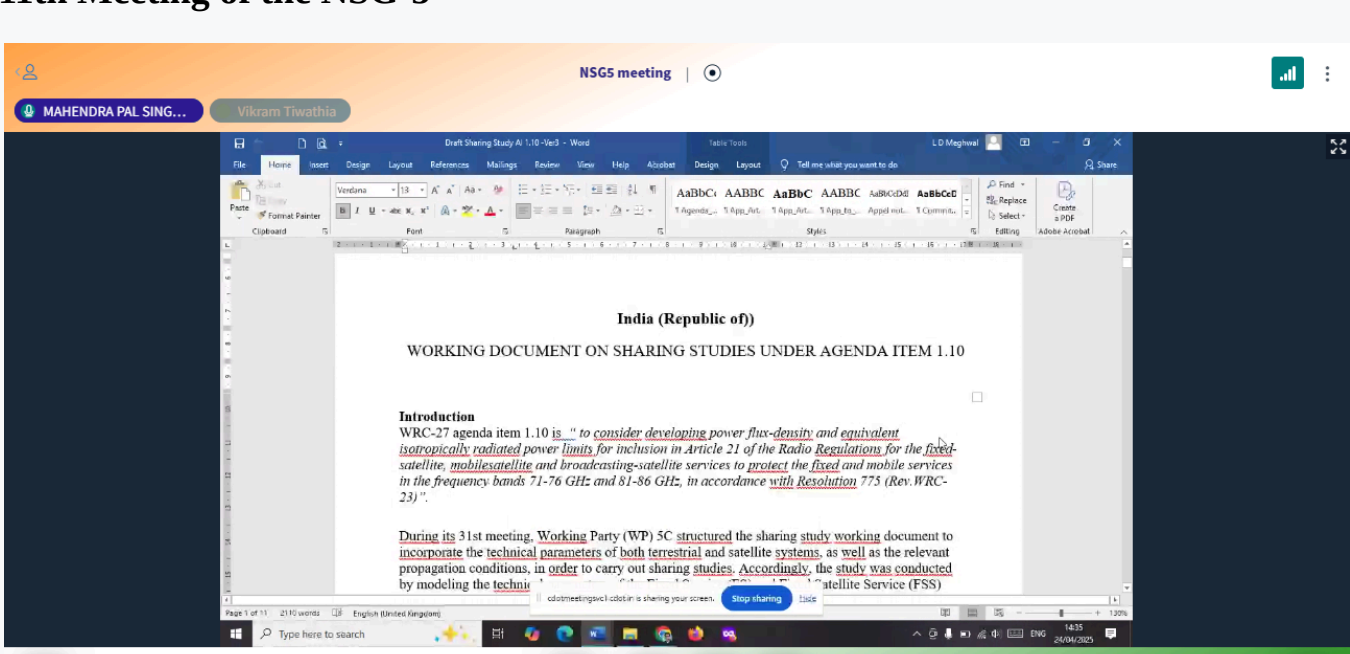
During the WP-4C meeting, IAFI presented a contribution related to World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 (WRC-27) Agenda Item 1.13. This contribution addressed the methodology for calculating aggregate interference from Non-Geostationary Satellite Orbit (NGSO) constellations operating in neighbouring countries to International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) receivers situated in a border country. Notably, Agenda Item 1.13 garnered significant interest, evidenced by the submission of over 50 contributions from various administrations .In addition IAFI also presented a number of contributions on agenda 1.1 and 1.13 on behalf of Indian Administration.

Indian Delegation Engages with Consul General in Shanghai to Discuss Global Telecom Regulations



The Indian delegation to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) 4C Working Party Meeting had the privilege of meeting Shri Pratik Mathur, Consul General of India in Shanghai. During the meeting, the delegation discussed the evolving telecommunications regulatory landscape and highlighted India's crucial role in shaping global telecom policies. The interaction underscored India's commitment to actively contributing to international dialogues and advancing the global telecommunications ecosystem.

11th Meeting of the NSG-5



The 11th Meeting of the NSG-5 (corresponding to SG-5) of the ITU-R was held on 24th April, 2025 in a virtual mode. Shri Gulab Chand, Joint Wireless Advisor, WPC/DoT was the chair of the meeting. Following two documents received by the NSG-5A were presented in the meeting.

i. Frequency bands, technical characteristics, and protection criteria, and compatibility and sharing studies for the modernization of high-frequency spectrum use in the aeronautical mobile (OR) service within the 2.8 to 18.05 MHz frequency range (WP-5B).

ii. Proposed text edits to the working documents for draft revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.2121 and draft revision of Report ITU-R M.2444.

Both the documents were discussed in detail and further updated.

International Girls in ICT Day - 24 April, 2025

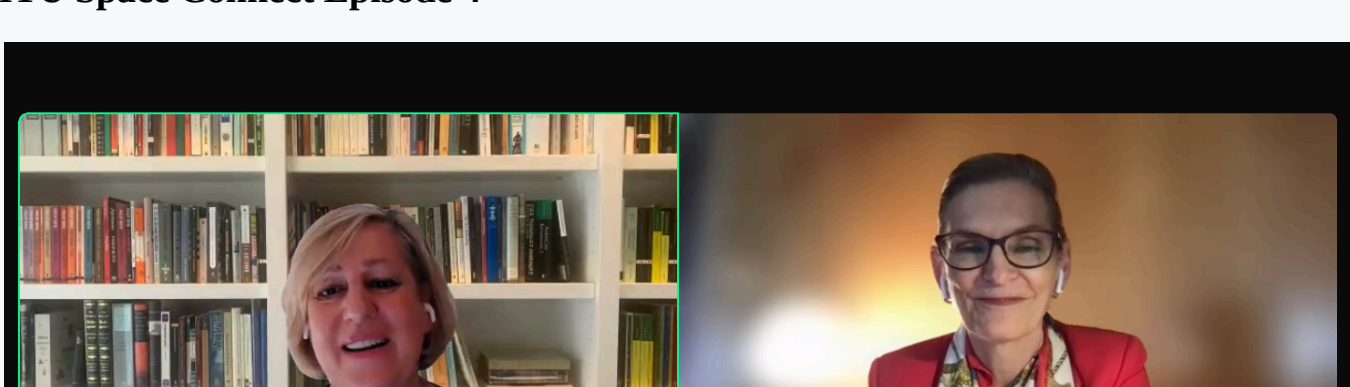


Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, Ms Doreen Bogdan Martin, delivered a message framing this as a global call to action, celebrating girls and young women not merely as technology users, but as the leaders, creators, and change-makers of the digital age. She pointed out that this year, International Girls in ICT Day is focused on empowering all girls and young women to not only participate but lead the world's digital transformation.

In her message underscoring the significance of meaningful connectivity, she highlighted a persistent digital gender gap: in 2024, only 65 percent of women globally were online, compared to 70 percent of men, resulting in 189 million fewer women than men with internet access. While much of the world is making strides towards gender parity in internet use, this disparity is regrettably growing in the Least Developed Countries. Recognizing that meaningful connectivity is fundamental to opportunity, she stressed the urgent need for affordable, safe, relevant, and transformative online spaces where girls can flourish. Achieving this requires dismantling long-standing barriers, including unequal access to education and digital skills, harmful social norms, affordability constraints, and online environments that too often exclude or endanger women and girls.

ITU launched International Girls in ICT Day in 2011, to help to open doors so that women and girls around the world could be digital leaders. He informed that International Girls in ICT Day 2025 marked with events in Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania and Switzerland.

ITU Space Connect Episode 4



ITU's Space Connect Episode 4 took place on April 24, 2025, focusing on the critical theme of "Satellites for Emergencies". The episode delved into the vital role of satellite technology in disaster response, exploring current applications and future potential for enhancing disaster preparedness and relief efforts. A significant aspect of this episode was the celebration of women in the space industry. The program featured engaging dialogues and interviews with prominent female leaders and rising stars, highlighting their invaluable contributions and inspiring the next generation.

In her welcome and opening remarks, ITU Secretary General, Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, underscored the significance of this topic within the ITU's ongoing work.

A key highlight of the episode was the interactive panel discussion titled "Navigating Careers in the Space Industry". This session brought together three accomplished and diverse space professionals:

a. Ms. Sandra Magnus, Chief Engineer - Department of Commerce - MITRE

b. Ms. Jane Nkechi Egerton-Idehen, CEO - Nigerian Communications Satellite NIGCOMSAT

c. Ms. Rayyanah Barnawi, General Supervisor - Microgravity Research - Saudi Space Agency (SSA)

These panelists shared valuable insights on navigating a career as a space professional, with a particular focus on:

- Providing practical guidance for emerging talent aspiring to enter the space sector.
- Exploring the diverse array of career paths available at the intersection of space and ICT.
- Facilitating meaningful connections between established leaders in the field and the next generation of professionals.

The Master of Ceremony for this insightful episode was Ms. Patricia Cooper from ITU.

Apple plans to ramp up iPhone production in India



Apple is poised to significantly boost iPhone production in India, a key move in its strategy to accelerate manufacturing diversification away from China and mitigate risks stemming from the on- going Sino-US trade tensions. Currently assembling 40-43 million iPhones annually in India, with nearly 80% destined for export according to industry estimates, the company could see this figure surge to 70-80 million by the end of 2026. This expansion aims to position India as the primary source of iPhones for the US market. Industry executives project this shift could elevate India's contribution to global iPhone sales to 40% within the next 18 months, a substantial increase from the current 18-20%.

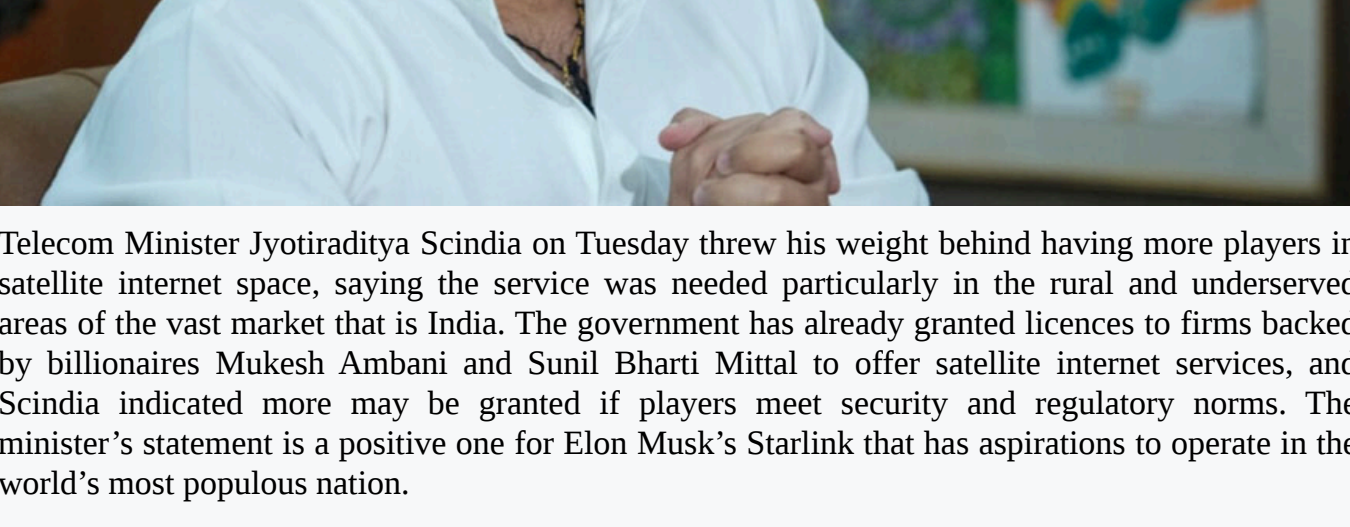
Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R Working Party 4C (WP 4C) - Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for MSS and RDSS	23rd April -02th May 2025	11th April 2025
APT: SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services	28th - 30th April 2025	18th April 2025
ITU-R Working Party 4B (WP 4B)	30th April - 05th May 2025	18th April 2025
ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP 4A) - Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for FSS and BSS	05th - 16th May 2025	24th April 2025
ITU-D TDAG-25	12th - 16th May 2025	30th April 2025
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2)	28th July - 01st Aug 2025	18th July 2025
APT: The 25th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-25)	01st - 03rd July 2025	22nd June 2025
APT: The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-4)	14th - 18th July 2025	04th July 2025
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2)	28th July - 01st Aug 2025	18th July 2025

Telecom Stories:



Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday threw his weight behind having more players in satellite internet space, saying the service was needed particularly in the rural and underserved areas of the vast market that is India. The government has already granted licences to firms backed by billionaires Mukesh Ambani and Sunil Bharti Mittal to offer satellite internet services, and Scindia indicated more may be granted if players meet security and regulatory norms. The minister's statement is a positive one for Elon Musk's Starlink that has aspirations to operate in the world's most populous nation.

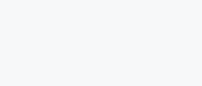


Business leaders and IT decision-makers confirm that there is an accelerating trend towards ROI-driven artificial intelligence investments. According to recent Lenovo research, organisations are increasing AI spending by 3.3x in Asia Pacific and 2.7x in India. Despite the increasing spend, AI adoption in India remains in its early stage. The research was based on a global IDC study of 2,900+ respondents, including over 900 IT and business decision-makers (ITBDMs) from 12 Asia Pacific markets.



Reliance Jio will soon offer Starlink hardware at its retail outlets across India, allowing customers direct access to satellite internet equipment once SpaceX receives the necessary approvals to operate in the country, the company said in its quarterly results announced Friday. The move is part of a recently signed agreement between Jio and SpaceX to bring Starlink's broadband services to Indian users. Notably, Mukesh Ambani-owned Jio's rival Bharti Airtel had also inked a deal with Elon Musk's satcom company. Jio will not only sell Starlink equipment but will also put in place a dedicated customer service mechanism to support installation and activation.

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