

India Space Policy Conference-2025 (ISPC-25):



The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) hosted its 2nd India Space Policy Conference 2025 from July 24-25, 2025, at the Imperial Hotel, Janpath, New Delhi. This two-day event drew a significant crowd of 250 delegates, including senior government officials, industry executives, academia, and startups. The conference served as a pivotal platform to foster synergy among diverse stakeholders. Attendees included representatives from ISRO, IN-SPACE, NSLI, DoT WPC, TEC, TRAI, and key international satellite organizations like the Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA), Viasat, Inmarsat, and the Satellite Industry Association (SIA) and many industry players and startups. The goal was to highlight emerging opportunities and promote collaborative development within the Indian satellite ecosystem.

Full video of the event can be seen here:

Some Interviews of speakers are available here:

https://youtu.be/_EO1ETrh8dM?si=CTV9dZPWQPl4tHo

The conference officially commenced with an opening address by Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI. He lauded the liberalization of the Indian space sector, emphasizing its significant potential for job creation and new investments. In an interview with ANI (details available at <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia/amp>), Mr. Bhatia further highlighted how allowing the private sector to conduct end-to-end space activities would attract substantial new investments and generate employment opportunities.

Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI, served as the Chief Guest for the Inaugural Session. Alongside distinguished dignitaries including Ms. Isabelle Mauro, Director General, Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA); Shri Gautam Sharma, MD, Viasat, India; and Ms. Revathi Mannepillai, JWA, Government of India and Member Radio Regulatory Board, ITU, Mr. Lahoti delivered a keynote speech. He underscored the transformative impact of the new Space Policy-2023 in fostering private sector and startup participation across the satellite ecosystem. He also referenced TRAI's recent balanced regulatory recommendations, including a 4% AGR, for five years for GSO/NGSO. His address garnered significant media attention, with further details accessible at <https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/lahoti-emphasizes-satellite-connectivity-digital-inclusion-at-isp-25/>.

Session-1 of the conference was regarding the India's Space Policy Framework and Recent Reforms and many prominent speakers featured insightful keynote addresses, including Shri Arun Agrawal (DDG Satellite, DoT), Shri Vinay Paliwal (Deputy Director, Programme Management and Authorization Directorate, IN-SPACE), Lt General Anil Kumar Bhatt (DG, Indian Space Association - ISPA), Shri H Rayappa (Director, Satellite Communication Programme Office, ISRO HQ, Govt. of India), Mr. Tony Azzarelli (Vice President, Eutelsat OneWeb), and Dr. Laura Roberti (Director for Spectrum & Market Access, Telesat). Their contributions provided comprehensive perspectives on the nation's transformative space landscape.

Session 2 of the conference was regarding the Spectrum Issues for Satellite Services and WRC-27 and keynote Speakers were -Shri Amit Gulati, Sr. DWA, WPC, DoT; Dr. Laura Roberti, Director for Spectrum & Market Access, Telesat; Ms. J Sofi, Associate Director (Frequency Management), Satellite Communication Programme Office ISRO HQ, India and Ms. Marta Donate Puentes, Spectrum Engineer, Eutelsat OneWeb.

Session 3 addressed the critical topic of "Present and Future Spectrum Needs of Defence services, Civil Aviation and Maritime Safety and Security." The session was expertly chaired by Shri Gulab Chand, JWA, WPC Wing, DoT. Keynote speakers who provided valuable insights included- Mr. Laurent Parente, DG, IMSO; Mr. John Dodd, Director of Safety Services, Inmarsat; Brig. Rahul Anand, Director JCLES, Integrated Defence Staff, MOD, India; Shri Vivek Barzai, Director, CFA, BSNL Board; Ms. Donna Bethae-Murphy, SVT, Regulatory, Viasat; Shri Lokesh Kabbal, Co-founder & CEO, AeroDome; Mr. Bashir Patel, Senior Advisor, Policy, Regulatory, and Spectrum, Inmarsat. In a media interview with ANI, Shri Gulab Chand provided further detail on the complexities of Direct-to-Device (D2D) services in India. His insights can be found at- <https://www.malayiasun.com/news/27846/543/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor>.

Day-2 activities:



Inaugural session and Session -4 was dedicated to Direct to Device Satellite communications. Shri Deb Kumar Chakrabarti, Advisor, DoT was the chief guest for the inaugural session. Many key note speakers were - Ms. Isabelle Mauro, DG, GSOA; Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, Director, DCPW; Shri N K Bhola, Director WMO, DoT; Mr. Udiwolf Pica, Spectrum and Regulatory Affairs- ITU Lead, SpaceX; Ms. Sonali Nanda, Deputy Director, PMAD, IN-SPACE; Shri M P S Alawa, JWA, DoT and Shri Jitendra Singh, Head, Government Affairs, Qualcomm. In a media interview, the Chief Guest highlighted the crucial role of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the satellite sector, emphasizing its potential to connect rural India. Further details from his speech are available at: <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/telecom-innovation-accelerated-by-fdi-dot-highlights-satellite-internet-for-rural-india/122907803>

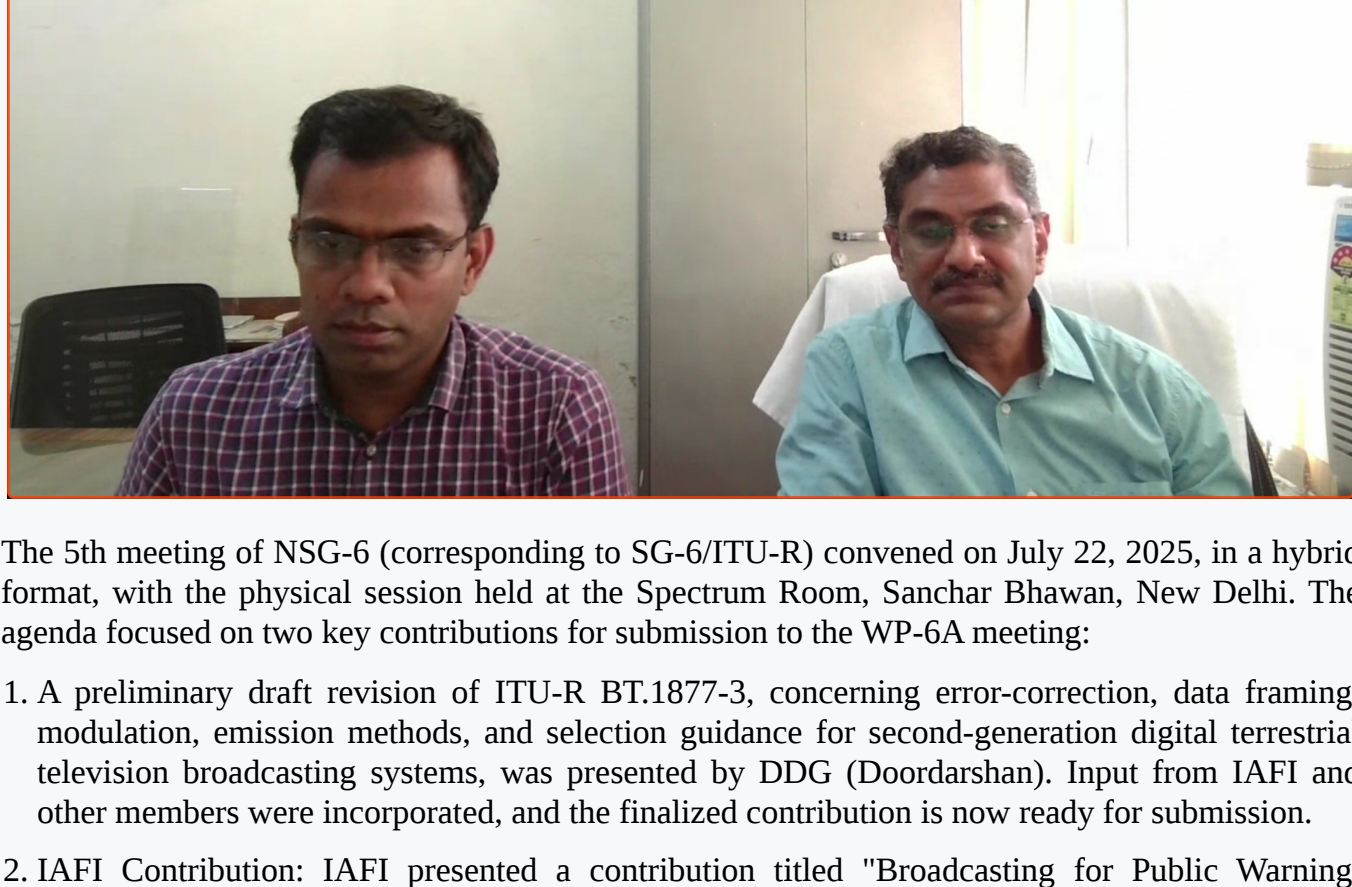
Session-5 and 6 were regarding the Viksit Bharat and distinguished key note speakers were –Shri T.R Dua, Chairman, IAFI, Shri R S Singh, DDG (IOT), TEC; Ms. Mariona Pazos Rovira, Regulatory Affairs and Licensing Specialist, Americas and APAC, Sateliot; Shri Mukesh Kumar, DDG Radio, TEC ; Shri H Rayappa, Director, Satellite Communication Programme Office ISRO HQ; Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, Director, DCPW; Shri Prabhat Dikshit, DDG (SMC), DoT; Shri Utpal Bhowmick, India B2B Business Lead, Amazon Kuiper; Shri Alok Shankar Pandey, Group General Manager (Information Technology) & Chief Information Security Officer, DECCI Ltd .

Closing session was regarding the discussions on Space Sustainability, discussing responsible practices for long-term space operations, including the prevention of space debris and managing collision risks. Key note speakers were Shri H C Soni, Vice President, IAFI and Ms. Donna Bethae-Murphy, SVT, Regulatory, Viasat. The conference provided a vital platform for interaction and debate, with sessions featuring keynote speeches, panel discussions, and technical presentations from experts and decision-makers. It aimed to shape the future of India's satellite sector, promoting investment, innovation, and international cooperation to solidify India's position as a major player in the global space economy. Very first time, entire event was well covered by the media.

The event was well covered by the Media as below:

- <https://aninews.in/news/business/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bhatia20250724180156/>
- <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/portal-in-portal/satcom/indias-space-sector-set-for-growth-job-creation-and-investment-opportunities-unveiled-by-iafi-president/122884827>
- <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia/>
- <https://www.lokmattimes.com/business/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia/>
- <https://english.newsnationtv.com/business/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia20250724180156>
- <https://www.newkerala.com/news/o/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-job-creation-investments-iafi-548>
- <https://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/Business/20250724/4341998.html>
- <https://tagtv.info/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia/>
- <https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/business-news-indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia-7019251.html>
- <https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/anienglish-epaper-anieng+india+s+space+sector+evolved+primed+for+job+creation+investments+iafi+president+bharat+bhatia-newsid-n673933131?istname=newspaperLanding&index=139&topicIndex=3&mode=pwa&action=click>
- <https://www.indianeconomicobserver.com/news/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia20250724180129/>
- <https://www.kashmirmirbreakingnews.com/news/indias-space-sector-evolved-primed-for-job-creation-investments-iafi-president-bharat-bhatia20250724180129/>
- <https://aninews.in/news/business/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174309/>
- <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/telecom-innovation-accelerated-by-fdi-dot-highlights-satellite-internet-for-rural-india/122907803>
- <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor/>
- <https://www.lokmattimes.com/business/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor/>
- <https://english.newsnationtv.com/business/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174309>
- <https://english.newsnationtv.com/business/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174309>
- <https://tagtv.info/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor/>
- <https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/business-news-fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor-7021760.html>
- <https://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/Business/20250725/4342409.html>
- <https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/anienglish-epaper-anieng+fdi+fueing+telecom+innovation+satellite+internet+key+for+rural+india+department+of+telecommunications+dot+advisor-newsid-n674073698?istname=newspaperLanding&index=51&topicIndex=3&mode=pwa&action=click>
- <https://www.indianeconomicobserver.com/news/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174303/>
- <https://www.kashmirmirbreakingnews.com/news/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174303/>
- <https://aninews.in/news/business/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250726152627/>
- <https://www.aninews.in/news/business/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725193305/>
- <https://news.ahplive.com/business/startups-building-satellite-parts-india-s-space-sector-gears-up-for-big-future-1790739>
- <https://www.lokmattimes.com/business/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor-1/>
- <https://www.awazthevoice.in/gadgets-news/space-startups-gain-ground-in-india-for-satellite-internet-push-39550.html>
- <https://tagtv.info/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor-2/>
- <https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/anienglish-epaper-anieng+enterprise+demand+to+drive+satellite+internet+space+startups+gaining+ground+in+india+department+of+telecommunications+dot+advisor-newsid-n674090489?istname=newspaperLanding&topic=business&index=0&topicIndex=3&mode=pwa>
- <https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/business-news-enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor-7022028.html>
- <https://english.newsnationtv.com/business/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725193305>
- <https://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/Business/20250725/4342432.html>
- <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor/>
- <https://www.indianeconomicobserver.com/news/fdi-fueling-telecom-innovation-satellite-internet-key-for-rural-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725174303/>
- <https://www.newkerala.com/news/o/enterprise-demand-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-370>
- <https://www.dailyprabhat.com/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor/>
- <https://www.kashmirmirbreakingnews.com/news/enterprise-demand-to-drive-satellite-internet-space-startups-gaining-ground-in-india-department-of-telecommunications-dot-advisor20250725193302/>

5th Meeting of the National Study Group-6 (NSG-6)

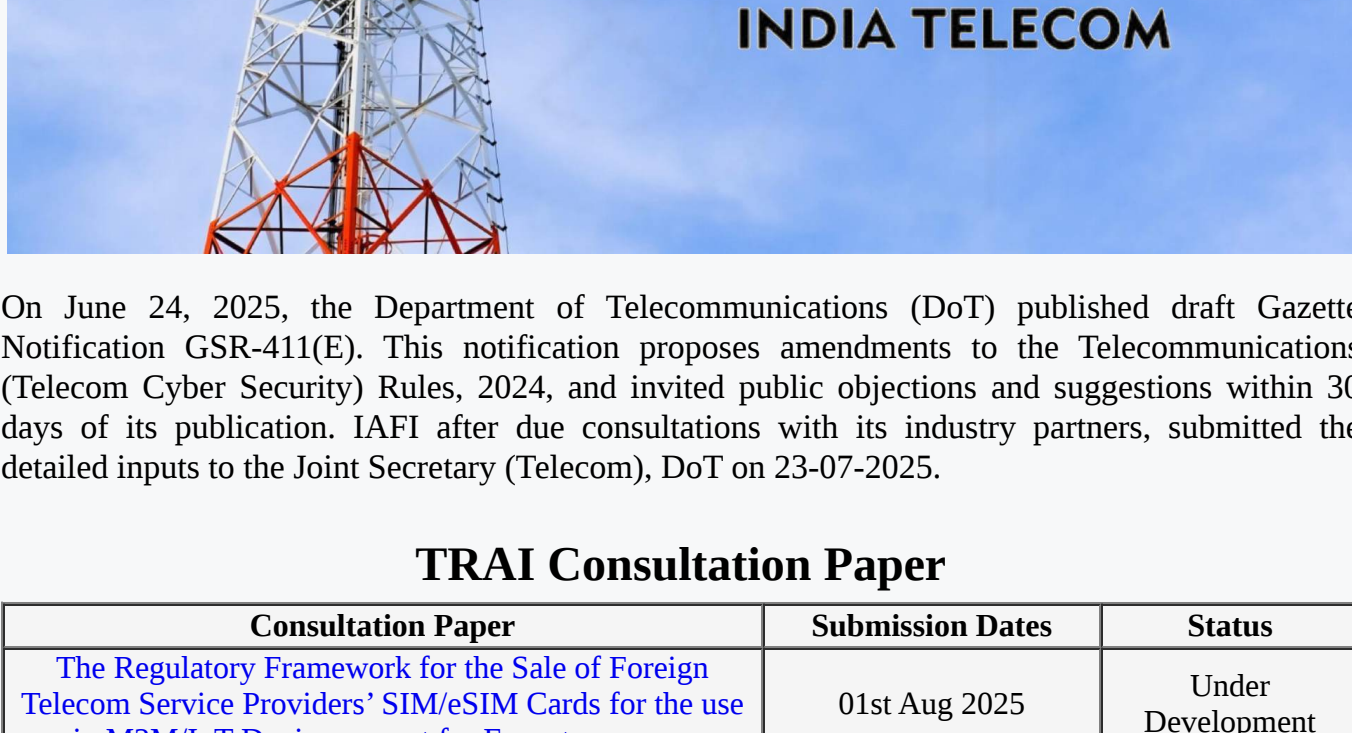


The 5th meeting of NSG-6 (corresponding to SG-6/ITU-R) convened on July 22, 2025, in a hybrid format, with the physical session held at the Spectrum Room, Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi. The agenda focused on two key contributions for submission to the WP-6A meeting:

- A preliminary draft revision of ITU-R BT.1877-3, concerning error-correction, data framing, modulation, emission methods, and selection guidance for second-generation digital terrestrial television broadcasting systems, was presented by DDG (Doordarshan). Input from IAFI and other members were incorporated, and the finalized contribution is now ready for submission.
- IAFI Contribution: IAFI presented a contribution titled "Broadcasting for Public Warning, Disaster Mitigation and Relief." It was decided that IAFI would revise this document as a contribution to an existing working document, following consultation with C-DoT on developed cell broadcast technologies for disaster warning.
- Rapporteur Nomination - Due to the sudden demise of Sh. R.C. Kota, the position of Rapporteur for NSG-6 was vacant. Sh. Prakash Sunkamle, Deputy Director, IMS Mumbai, has been nominated as the new Rapporteur. Additionally, Sh. Vaibhav Chhabra, Engineer WMS Lucknow, has been co-opted to assist with NSG-6 activities.

The next NSG-6 meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2025, at 16:30 Hrs, in a hybrid mode.

IAFI submitted comments on DoT draft gazette notification GSR-411 (E)



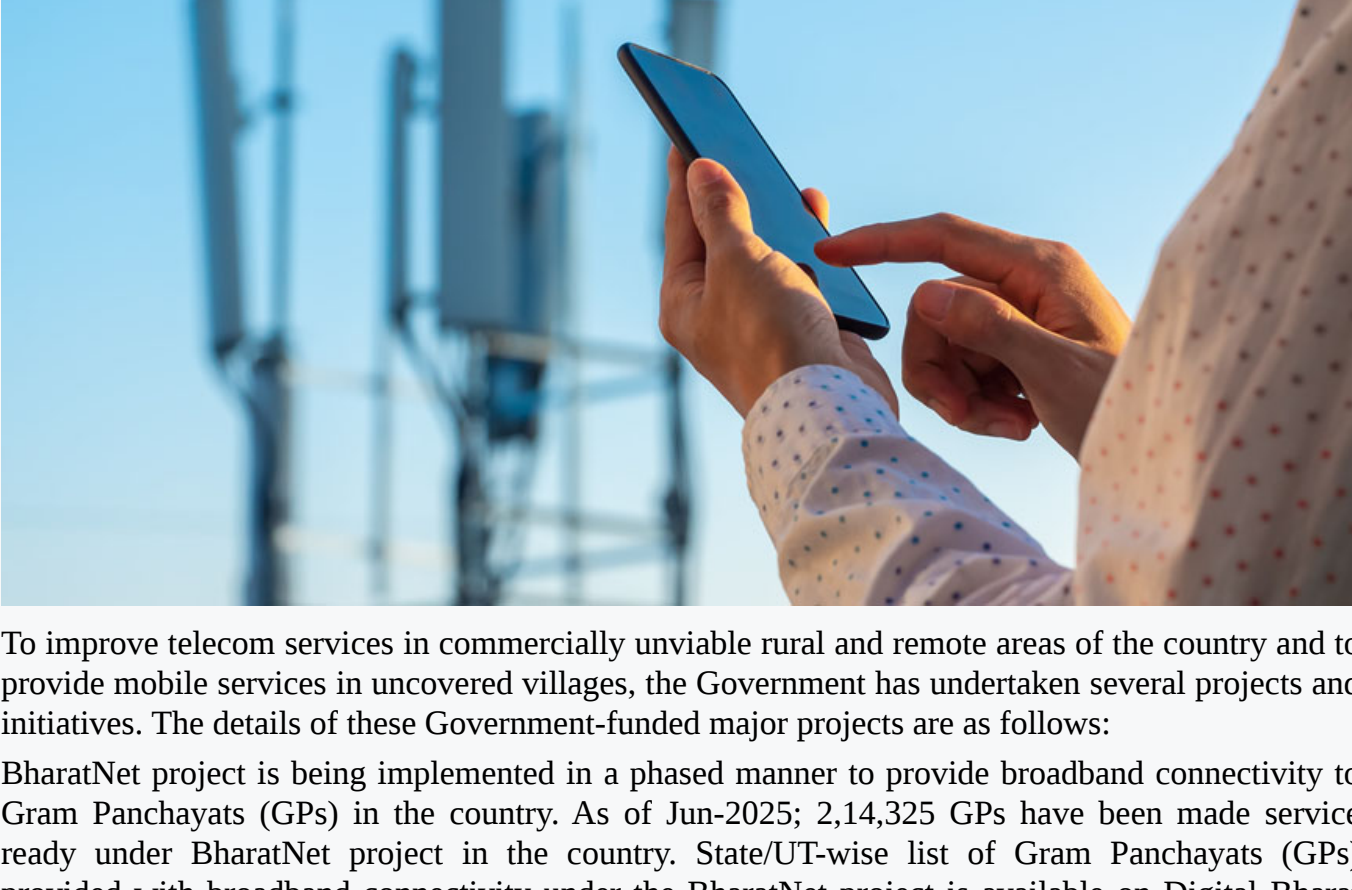
On June 24, 2025, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) published draft Gazette Notification GSR-411(E). This notification proposes amendments to the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024, and invited public objections and suggestions within 30 days of its publication. IAFI after due consultations with its industry partners, submitted the detailed inputs to the Joint Secretary (Telecom), DoT on 23-07-2025.

TRAI Consultation Paper		
Consultation Paper	Submission Dates	Status
The Regulatory Framework for the Sale of Foreign Telecom Service Providers' SIM/eSIM Cards for the use in M2M/IoT Devices meant for Export purposes	01st Aug 2025	Under Development

DoT Consultation Paper		
Consultation Paper	Submission Dates	Status
Circulation of Draft National Telecom Policy (NTP), 2025 for Public Consultation.	14th Aug 2025	Under Development

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend			
Meeting	Dates		Submission Dates
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2)	28th July - 01st Aug 2025		18th July 2025
ITU-R: Working Party 7D (WP 7D) - Radio astronomy	15th - 24th Sep 2025		3rd Sep 2025
ITU-R: Working Party 7B (WP 7B) - Space radiocommunication applications	16th - 25th Sep 2025		4th Sep 2025
ITU-R: Working Party 7C (WP 7C) - Remote sensing systems	16th - 25th Sep 2025		4th Sep 2025

Telecom Stories:



To improve telecom services in commercially unviable rural and remote areas of the country and to provide mobile services in uncovered villages, the Government has undertaken several projects and initiatives. The details of these Government-funded major projects are as follows:

BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. As of Jun-2025, 214,325 GPs have been made service ready under BharatNet project in the country. State/UT-wise list of Gram Panchayats (GPs) provided with broadband connectivity under the BharatNet project is available on Digital Bharat website (<https://usof.gov.in/en/home>). Further, on 04.08.2023, Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) for up-gradation of existing network of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II, creation of network in balance 42,000 GPs (approx.). Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been nominated as the Project Management Agency for ABP with timeline of three years from the signing of agreement, for completion of construction phase and then operation and maintenance will start.



The move, however, spells continued bad news for consumers, who face unwanted communications on a daily basis. Experts believe that once telemarketers are brought under a regulatory or authorisation framework, they can be held accountable for curbing spam alongside telecom operators and can be made liable to face consequences.

New Delhi: Consumers are unlikely to get much respite from spam communications in the near future, with the telecoms regulator believed to have effectively rejected the Department of Telecommunications' (DoT) request to bring telemarketers under a regulatory mechanism.

While the current regulatory framework devised by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) to curb spam communications places the onus on telecom operators to tackle the issue, telemarketers who play a central role in aggregating and disseminating commercial messages via telecommunications channels are not covered by any regulatory ambit and are therefore practically unaccountable, according to industry experts.



India's AI Strategy

India has a strong information technology ecosystem. It generates annual revenues of more than 250 billion dollars and provides employment to more than 6 million people.

Global rankings such as Stanford AI rankings place India among the top countries in AI skills, capabilities, and policies to use AI. India is also the second-largest contributor to GitHub AI projects, showcasing its vibrant developer community.

India's AI Strategy

India's AI strategy aims to position India as a global leader in artificial intelligence. The government launched the **IndiaAI mission** in March 2024. It is a strategic initiative to establish a robust and inclusive AI ecosystem aligned with India's development goals through its seven key pillars.

Hosting Open-Source AI Models

MeitY is in the process of hosting open-source AI models on the AIRAWAT compute infrastructure managed by CDAC-Pune. Currently, three open-source models from the LLaMA family have been deployed and are accessible to the developer community via API on the LLAMA basis.

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