India to host ITU Plenipotentiary Conference PP-30 in 2030

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News

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) in Doha, Qatar, which concluded on 27 November 2026, formally accepted India's proposal to host the next Plenipotentiary Conference – the International Telecommunication Union's highest policy-making body – in 2030 (PP-30). The ITU Council had earlier approved the proposal at its 2026 session in Geneva. In a video message, Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia invited the global telecommunications community, saying India looks forward to welcoming it in 2030. The host city for PP-30 has not yet been announced. The Plenipotentiary Conference meets every four years to adopt the ITU's strategic and financial plans and to elect its top leadership and Council. India has been an ITU member since 1869 and a continuous Council member since 1952, and at Doha it was elected to the Council for 2027–2030.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2030 (PP-30)
Accepted	At PP-26, Doha (Qatar), which ended 27 Nov 2026
Prior approval	ITU Council, Geneva (2026 session)
Announced by	Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia (video message)

Point	Details
Host city	Not announced
PP frequency	Every four years
India–ITU	Member since 1869; on Council since 1952; elected for 2027–30
Earlier event hosted	WTSA-24, New Delhi (Oct 2024)

Background

- In India, telecom policy and relations with the ITU are handled by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Union Ministry of Communications. TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) was set up in 1997 under an Act of Parliament to regulate the sector.
- Law: the Telecommunications Act, 2023 replaced the colonial Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933; many of its provisions came into force on 26 June 2024. It sets a new framework for spectrum assignment, interception and authorisation.
- Technology: C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics), set up in 1984 under Sam Pitroda's leadership, built rural automatic telephone exchanges and seeded India's telecom revolution. India has since developed an indigenous 4G/5G stack.
- The ITU, founded in 1865, is the oldest UN specialised agency (HQ Geneva) with 194 member states. PP-26, which ended in Doha on 27 November 2026, was attended by 179 member states. Hosting PP-30 will be another major ITU event in India after the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) held in New Delhi in 2024.

Tamil Nadu link: India's first 5G Testbed, launched by the Prime Minister on 17 May 2022 at TRAI's silver-jubilee event, was built by eight institutes led by IIT Madras at a cost of about ₹220 crore; Indian firms and start-ups can test their 5G equipment on it.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Event: ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2030 (PP-30); Accepted: At PP-26, Doha (Qatar), which ended 27 Nov 2026; Prior approval: ITU Council, Geneva (2026 session); Announced by: Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia (video message).

What is the background to this news?

In India, telecom policy and relations with the ITU are handled by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Union Ministry of Communications.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which Union body frames telecom policy and handles India's work with the ITU?

A) DoT

B) MeitY

C) TRAI

D) MEA

Answer: A – Explanation: DoT – under the Ministry of Communications. TRAI is the regulator; MeitY handles electronics and IT.

2. In which year was the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) set up under an Act of Parliament?

A) 1991

B) 1997

C) 2000

D) 2005

Answer: B – Explanation: 1997 – TRAI Act, 1997. A 2000 amendment created the separate TDSAT tribunal for disputes.

3. Who led the setting up of C-DOT in 1984 and seeded India's rural telephone revolution?

A) Nandan Nilekani

B) Sam Pitroda

C) Vikram Sarabhai

D) Verghese Kurien

Answer: B – Explanation: Sam Pitroda – C-DOT's rural automatic exchanges led to the spread of public call offices (PCOs).

4. The Telecommunications Act, 2023 replaced which colonial-era law?

A) Post Office Act, 1898

B) IT Act, 2000

C) Telegraph Act, 1885

D) Cable TV Act, 1995

Answer: C – Explanation: Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (and the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933). The 1898 Post Office Act was replaced by the Post Office Act, 2023.

5. Which Tamil Nadu institution mainly developed India's '5Gi' technology, taken through ITU's IMT-2020 process?

A) Anna University

B) NIT Tiruchirappalli

C) PSG Tech

D) IIT Madras

Answer: D – Explanation: IIT Madras (its CEWiT centre), with IIT Hyderabad – built around LMLC for wide rural coverage.