DECEMBER 2024

SESEI
Newsletters

SECONDED EUROPEAN STANDARDIZATION EXPERT IN INDIA

cen — European Committee for Standardization

CENELEC — European Committee for Electro Technical Standardization

ETSI — European Telecommunications Standards Institute

European Commission

EFTA — European Free Trade Association

Dear Readers

As we step into the new phase of SESEI Project, we are excited to release the latest edition of "SESEI Newsletter – Europe" for the month of December 2024. Building further on the work carried out during the previous phases, our endeavor is to further the impetus of creating harmonization and increased cooperation between India and EU stakeholders on Standards and related policies. Mr. Jan Ellsberger, DG ETSI in his recent visit to India , appreciated India's vibrant and rapidly growing technology landscape while noting the immense opportunities for collaboration between Europe and India, as technology partners, especially in the realm of 6G, AI, IoT/M2M, and smart infrastructure.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MEITY) is currently under the process of preparing "voluntary ethics code" for AI firms. Simultaneously, Meity is also working with Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC), and Industry stakeholders to develop standards on the basis of which a self-test or a third-party audit can be conducted by companies to ensure reliability, explainability, transparency, privacy, and security for firms to test their AI models.

Recent noteworthy initiative of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is preparation of new "National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP)" which will focus on emerging technologies, identification of new spectrum bands, implementation plans of 6G, development of 'Millimeter wave Power Amplifiers Chips IP Cores for 5G FR2' to ensure high-speed and ultra-low latency services required in 5G etc.

India to lead towards a sustainable and green economy and, Transport sector being one of the key drivers for emissions, Govt. of India, has launched a scheme titled as 'PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)" to push electric vehicles by providing subsidies, establishment of network of charging stations & upgradation of testing agencies. To support the promotion of Electric Vehicles, Ministry of Power (MoP) has also revised "Guidelines for Installation and Operation of Battery Swapping and Charging Stations", to encourage battery-as-a-service models, and develop a robust battery swapping ecosystem.

India is also positioning itself as a global leader in green hydrogen production, export, and manufacturing. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has introduced a draft for India's green hydrogen certificate scheme and as well launched an implementation guidelines to promote the production and utilization of green hydrogen through innovative methods and pathways.

India and EFTA have signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) and India is working with the EFTA countries for successful implementation of the trade agreement. Similar progress was made in the India- EU Free Trade (FTA) negotiations during its 9th round of discussions.

The newsletter provides details of upcoming events in India alongwith important weblinks for the draft standards on the BIS, TEC, and TSDSI websites. We would like to conclude by conveying Merry Christmas, Happy New Year 2025 with the hope that you will find this newsletter informative.

Happy Reading!!

Best regards,
Dinesh Chand Sharma
Director Standards & Public Policy

Generic/Standards

Visit of DG and CTO, ETSI to India

Mr. Jan Ellsberger, the new Director-General of ETSI visited India on 11th October 2024, together with Mr. Issam Toufik, CTO at ETSI. During their visit they had formal meetings with the Telecom Standardisation Development Society of India (TSDSI), the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC). These meetings were facilitated by the SESEI project (Seconded European Standardisation Expert in India).

Mr. Jan Ellsberger shared the ETSI vision, new strategy and initiatives with the Indian stakeholders. While elaborating on the new scope of activities, DG ETSI stated that AI, Data, Quantum Computing, Sustainability and collaboration with Research Programs are key areas for expansion. He reaffirmed ETS's commitment to developing world-class global standards and to further strengthening its role as a European Standards Organisation (ESO). Increased global cooperation with focus on India, Southeast Asia, Middle East & Africa is also an element of new strategy at ETSI.

As the new Director-General of ETSI, Mr. Ellsberger appreciated India's vibrant and rapidly growing technology landscape, noting the immense opportunities for collaboration for Europe and India, as technology partners. He suggested that they are ideally positioned to explore the potential of 6G, and unlock the possibilities of AI, IoT/M2M, and smart infrastructure.

Mr. Jan Ellsberger declared "I firmly believe that by working together - combining India's innovative spirit with Europe's expertise in standardization - we can shape the global future of connectivity, security, and sustainability."

India secures spot in global top 10 for all 3 major intellectual property rights

India has secured a spot in the global top-10 for all three major intellectual property (IP) rights - patents, trademarks, and industrial designs, the commerce and industry ministry said. It said India ranked fourth globally in trademark filings, with a 6.1% increase in 2023.

Nearly 90% of these filings were by residents, with key sectors, including health, agri, and clothing leading the way.

India's trademark office holds the second-largest number of active registrations worldwide, with over 3.2 million trademarks in force, reflecting the country's strong position in global brand protection, it said.

"The findings from WIPO's (World Intellectual Property Organization) World Intellectual Property Indicators 2024 showcase India's advancements in innovation and IP," it added.

PIB ❯

ITU to prioritise global standards on DPI and AI after India push

The World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA 2024) has adopted two key resolutions proposed by India on digital public infrastructure (DPI) and artificial intelligence (AI).

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will now prioritise standardisation in these areas, both of which have been pushed by Prime Minister of India.

The ITU, a specialised United Nations agency for information and communication technologies of which India is a part, conducts the WTSA every four years to plan its standardisation programme. The WTSA reviewed and modified existing guidance and agreed on six other new resolutions, all supported by India.

India had specifically pushed the global body to adopt a focussed approach towards DPI, a collection of technologies that promotes interoperability, openness and inclusion to deliver vital public and private services, including access to credit and marketing.

Key Indian DPI offerings such as Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and other government run services part of the India stack including eKYC and Digilocker had been discussed at length at the WTSA, given the interest by developing economies in Africa.

"What was seen as a form of communication has today become the highway on which the future of not only our countries, but the future of humanity in the next decades will be building," Telecom Minister said on the occasion.

The other resolutions adopted by WTSA include enhancing standardisation activities on sustainable digital transformation, promoting and strengthening metaverse standardisation, promoting and Strengthening Standardization Activities for Vehicular Communications and strategic planning in ITU telecom standardisation.

A provision of handset-derived caller location information for emergency communications and enhancing the engagement of next generation experts in ITU-T standardization activities was also supported by New Delhi.

The government believes India's participation at the meetings is crucial for shaping global agendas in emerging technologies such as AI, 6G, Internet of Things, satellite communications, and Quantum computing.

At WTSA, two expert groups were consolidated to create the new ITU-T Study Group 21 on technologies for multimedia, content delivery, and cable TV. A historic turnout of 3,700 delegates from over 160 countries made the latest WTSA the largest ever.

Business Standard ❯

Meanwhile, ITU Secretary General pitched for stronger standards for AI that can help build trust safety and level the playing field for innovation. Internal surveys by ITU have pointed out 85% of ITU's 194 member states have no framework for AI.

"In collaboration with India, we are exploring ways to leverage ITU's inclusive platforms to bring early research and prototypes to market, and to work with academic partners on the latest advancements in network technology," ITU Secretary General said.

Digitization

A new NDCP in the offing, to be unveiled by April next year

Following the enactment of the Telecom Act, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is working on a new National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP). This policy will serve as a strategic roadmap for the growth of the Indian telecom sector over the next five years, and will outline key targets and objectives to be achieved. One of the major highlights of the upcoming policy is expected to be a series of government incentives aimed at encouraging telecom operators to procure telecom equipment from domestic manufacturers. This initiative aligns with the government's broader goal of promoting local manufacturing and reducing reliance on imports.

According to officials, the new policy will also revamp several of the targets set in earlier policies, incorporating lessons learned from previous years. The focus of the new NDCP will extend to various segments of the telecom ecosystem, including emerging technologies, the identification of new spectrum bands, a detailed roadmap for the implementation of 6G, and strategies to boost local manufacturing. Official sources have indicated that this new policy will likely be unveiled by April next year.

PIB ❯

Ministry of Electronics and IT (MEITY) readying voluntary ethics code for AI firms

The government is working on a set of voluntary codes of conduct and ethics for companies to follow for the work they do with artificial intelligence (AI) or generative AI, sources told ET.

The conduct and ethics developed by MEITY will be akin to "informal directive principles" for companies, especially those working to build their large language models (LLMs) or using data to train AI and machine learning models, an official said.

"A law on AI is still some time away. We are talking to all stakeholders right now to see what can be included and trying to get the industry onboard on a common set of principles and guidelines," the official said. The voluntary code of conduct could be released early next year, another official said.

Some of the larger principles that the IT ministry may release as a part of the voluntary code involve measures that companies can take during the training, deployment, and commercial sale as well as identifying and rectifying any instances of potential misuse of the LLM and AI platforms developed by the company, the second official said.

"The G7 members have developed an 11-point code of conduct for companies which work in the AI and gen-AI space. Though what we are trying to develop will be completely different, the idea will be the same," one of the officials quoted above said.

Earlier this year in March, the IT ministry issued an advisory asking all platforms to ensure that "their computer resources do not permit any bias or discrimination or threaten the integrity of the electoral process" by the use of AI, generative AI, LLMs or any such other algorithm.

In its advisory, the IT ministry had also said that all AI models, large-language models (LLMs), software using generative AI or any algorithms that are currently being tested, are in the beta stage of development or are unreliable in any form must seek "explicit permission of the government of India" before being deployed for users on the Indian internet.

Economic Times ❯

TEC issued draft consultation paper, similar to EU AI Act

Firms deploying artificial intelligence (AI) technologies having consumer interface will need to either self-certify their models so as not to cause any harm to users or get the same done by third party agencies. Sources said that the government will not be getting into checking either the robustness or safety of any use cases developed using such technologies. Instead, it will broadly lay down some standards like reliability, explainability, transparency, privacy, and security against which the firms will be required to test their AI models. Such a move would not deter innovation but adopt a light touch to regulatory approach.

Currently, the Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC), the ministry of electronics and IT (MeitY) and industry stakeholders are, in the process of developing such standards on the basis of which a self-test or a third audit can be conducted by companies working on large language models (LLMs). These models could be related to connected cars, drones metaverse, and healthcare systems.

Officials said for critical AI applications like self-driving cars, medical diagnosis, autonomous aircraft levels as benchmarks to pay the way for the use of AI technology in the applications.

The TEC recently issued a draft consultation paper on robustness assessment and rating of AI systems, which involves standards on which the AI systems can be rated and checked for security and safety. The draft, which is open for comments till December 15, has been prepared in consultation with MeitY officials and technology companies, officials said. A copy of the draft was seen by Financial Express(FE).

As per the draft, AI robustness has been defined as the degree of which AI system maintains its functional correctness and remains insensitive to specific adversarial phenomena in the data, model, human in the loop, integration of interfaces or deployed environment. The TEC has recommended a risk-based approach to evaluate robustness of AI system, which is similar to the European union Artificial Intelligence Act.

While prescribing qualitative standards and norms that can be followed by the companies to check their systems before production, the consultation paper recommends a three-tier ranking system - high risk, medium risk, and low risk - for AI robustness based on parameters such as scope of AI systems, vulnerabilities, purpose for deployment, etc.

The approach, which the government if following on AI regulations is different from its earlier approach wherein MeitY issued advisory to all intermediaries using AI models, software or algorithms asked them to seek permission from the government and label their platforms ad 'under testing' before making them available to the public.

Later, MeitY had removed the requirement of seeking the government's nod before launching any untested or unreliable AI models in the country. Recently, MeitY approved eight responsible AI projects for safe and trusted AI. These projects include AI governance testing framework, algorithm auditing tools, AI ethical certifications framework among others.

Communications Today

IndiaAI Mission picks 8 projects to boost ethical AI development

The government has selected eight Artificial Intelligence (AI) projects from top Indian institutions to enhance the ethical AI development across diverse themes in the country.

The IndiaAI Mission picked eight projects across various themes, against the expression of interest (EoI) floated under the 'Safe and Trusted AI Pillar' of the mission.

The themes include Machine Unlearning, Synthetic Data Generation, AI Bias Mitigation, Ethical AI Frameworks, Privacy-Enhancing Tools, Explainable AI, AI Governance Testing, and Algorithm Auditing Tools.

The selected institutions are Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur; Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee; National Institute of Technology Raipur; Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), Pune in partnership with Mindgraph Technology Pvt Ltd; Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi in partnership with Indian Institute of Technology, Dharwad, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi in partnership with Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC); Civic Data Labs; and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in partnership with Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC).

"The selected 'Responsible AI' projects include the development of indigenous tools and frameworks, and establishing guidelines for ethical, transparent, and trustworthy AI technologies," said the IT Ministry.

More than 2,000 proposals were received from reputed academic institutions, startups, research organisations and civil society.

A multi-stakeholder committee was created to provide technical expertise for the evaluation of the proposals, resulting in the selection of 8 projects across various themes.

According to the IT Ministry, this significant initiative aligns with the government's vision of leveraging AI for inclusive growth.

The IndiaAI Mission aims to democratise AI's benefits across all strata of society, bolster India's global leadership in AI, foster technological self-reliance, and ensure ethical and responsible use of AI.

PIB ❯

India is leading in AI adoption at 30%, surpassing global average of 26%: BCG report

India is leading in Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption, according to new research by Boston Consulting Group (BCG), which pegged that 30% of Indian companies are maximizing value through the use of such emerging technology.

According to the BCG report, 26% of global companies utilise AI. Fintech, software, and banking sectors are increasingly using AI in their operations.

After years of investing, hiring talent, and launching pilots in artificial intelligence (AI), CEOs are now seeking tangible returns from the technology, said the report. In the same breath, the report said realizing its full value remains difficult.

Even with the widespread implementation of AI programs across industries, only 26% of companies have developed the necessary set of capabilities to move beyond proofs of concept and generate tangible value, according to new BCG research.

The report, titled 'Where's the Value in AI?', was based on a survey of 1,000 Chief Experience Officers (CxOs) and senior executives from over 20 sectors, spanning 59 countries in Asia, Europe, and North America, and covering as many as ten major industries.

While just 4% of companies globally have developed cutting-edge AI capabilities across functions and consistently generate significant value, an additional 22% have implemented an AI strategy.

74% of companies have yet to show tangible value from their use of AI, said the report.

"India's swift adoption of AI is redefining its competitive edge globally, with 30% of Indian companies having maximized AI's value potential–surpassing the global average of 26%. With 100% of companies actively experimenting with AI, India stands out for its readiness to harness AI's potential," said India Leader, Technology and Digital Advantage Practice, BCG.

Moreover, the maturity of India's AI leaders spans both traditional and digital sectors, signalling a broad-based adoption that's driving value beyond typical tech-driven industries.

IndiaAI ❯

TRAI likely to finalize satcom spectrum allocation norms by Dec 15

Telecom sector regulator Trai is likely to finalise its recommendation on proposed rules related to spectrum allocation for satellite communications by December 15, an official said.

The government will evaluate recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and thereafter decide on allocating spectrum to satellite communication companies, which will pave the way for satellite-based broadband services in the country.

"TRAI is working to submit a recommendation on satcom spectrum assignment by December 15. There were several points raised during the open house discussion, some of which were beyond the consultation paper. Those points also need to be looked upon," an official source said on condition of anonymity.

Recently, TRAI concluded an open house discussion on the terms and conditions for the assignment of spectrum for certain satellite-based commercial communication services.

Telecom service providers like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel want spectrum for full mobility across the country should be allocated through auctions only. However, Elon Musk's Starlink and global peers like Amazon's Project Kuiper and other satellite communication companies back an administrative allocation of satcom spectrum.

With battle lines between terrestrial players and satellite aspirants clearly drawn, Trai's marathon open house discussion that stretched for several hours saw telcos Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel banding together and speaking in unison about the need for a level-playing field as India works out the norms for satcom spectrum.

Jio, which has made a case for the auction of satellite spectrum, said it is "not afraid of competition" but that 'same services same rules' must apply.

The Mukesh Ambani-led firm has obtained a legal opinion from a retired Supreme Court judge, which says that Trai's consultation paper on spectrum allocation for satellite communications seems to have completely sidestepped the issue of level-playing field with ground-based telecom networks.

Musk's Starlink and other global peers like Amazon's Project Kuiper back an administrative allocation of satcom spectrum.

During the open house discussion, Director, Starlink Satellite Communications, asserted that Indian users want satellite broadband services and that these "intelligent consumers" have the right to choose an operator who will provide them with an affordable, high-quality service.

Starlink prices for any country are readily available on its website, and that it is proud of making satellite broadband affordable for users who have so far been unserved, he pointed out.

Communications today >

Centre to develop tech for highspeed, ultra-low latency 5G services
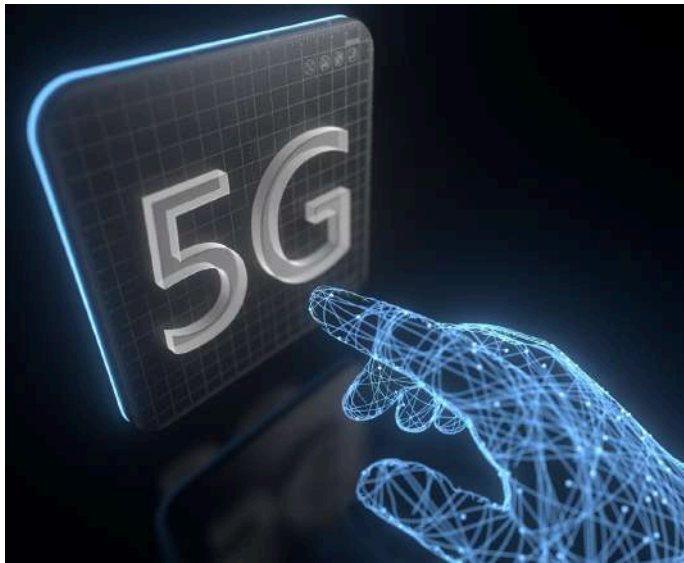
To further ensure high-speed and ultra-low latency services required in 5G, the DoT has signed an agreement with Linearized Amplifier Technology Services and Vedang Radio Tech.

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), under DoT, Linearized Amplifier Technologies Services and Vedang Radio Tech joined hands to develop 'Millimeter wave Power Amplifiers Chips IP Cores for 5G FR2'. Through this agreement, the organisations are gearing up to strengthen India's capacity to produce and sustain cutting-edge solutions on a global scale.

"This will enhance cutting-edge research and infrastructure as well as aligns seamlessly with the National Semiconductor Mission, a crucial component of Prime Minister of India's Make-in-India initiative," said the Ministry of Communications in a statement.

These power amplifier IP cores are essential for standalone transceiver chips as well as also serve as building blocks in larger phased arrays, designed for beamforming systems that rely on over-the-air power combining.

The project aims to develop and validate the mm-wave Power amplifier IP cores for 5G FR2 frequency bands (26 GHz and 47 GHz) using commercial foundry services. The 5G FR2 frequency bands can be leveraged to provide ample bandwidth availability at the mm-wave frequencies that is crucial for highspeed and ultra-low latency services required in 5G.

The project will use the standard process design kits (PDKs) in the design and hardware validation process underscoring a commitment to producing commercially viable, industry-ready IP cores.

CEO of C-DOT, emphasised the department's contributions as a beacon of indigenous development of telecom products and solutions and relentless effort in research accelerating nation's growth with the unfettered support of the government.

PIB >
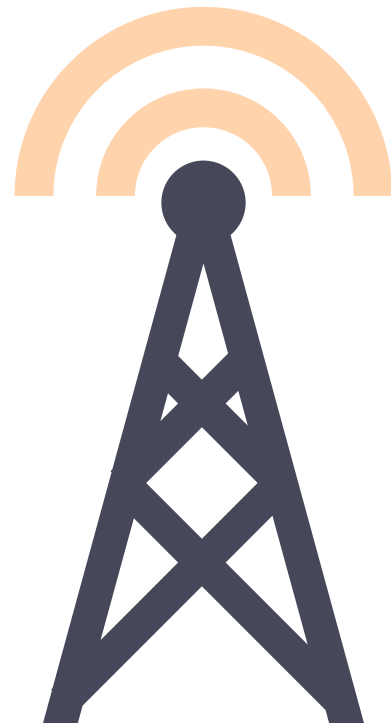
🌍 Green and Clean Technologies

Cabinet approves Rs 10,900 crore (€ 1.23 billion) PM E-Drive to push electric mobility

The Ministry of Heavy Industry, Govt. of India, has launched scheme titled 'PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme vide Gazette notification S.O. 4259 (E) on September 29, 2024. The scheme will be implemented from 1st October, 2024 till 31st March, 2026. Further, EMPS-2024, the number of vehicles and the expenditure under EMPS-2024 for e-2w and e-3w being implemented for the period from 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024 is being subsumed under PM E-DRIVE Scheme, therefore, effective period for the scheme will be two years.

The PM E-DRIVE scheme is proposed to be implemented through the following components:

- **Subsidies**: Demand Incentives for e-2W, e-3W, e-ambulances, e-trucks and other new emerging EV categories
- **Grants for creation of capital assets**: e-buses, establishment of network of charging stations & upgradation of testing agencies of MHI, and
- **Administration of the Scheme including IEC** (Information, Education & Communication) activities and fee for project management agency (PMA).

The following categories of vehicles will be eligible for support:

- Buses (only electric buses) (e-bus);
- Three-Wheelers (electric) including registered e-rickshaws & e-carts and L5 (e-3W);
- Two-wheelers (electric) – e-2W;
- e-ambulances (electric, plug-in hybrid & strong hybrid); and
- e-trucks and other new emerging EV categories (to be notified subsequently).

With greater emphasis on providing affordable and environment-friendly public transportation options for the masses, scheme will be applicable mainly to vehicles used for public transport or those registered for commercial purposes in e-3W, e-trucks and other new emerging EV categories. However, in addition to commercial use, privately or corporate owned registered e-2W will also be eligible under the scheme. Eligible beneficiaries for e-ambulances shall be decided in consultation with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). Further, where EVs are being purchased from eligible OEMs by any department of the Central or State Government or its agencies, PM E-DRIVE demand incentive shall not be extended, as it amounts to passing of funds from one government head to another.

Download Scheme/Notification ❯

PIB ❯

Ministry of Power (MoP) Issued Guidelines for Installation and Operation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure-2024

The Ministry of Power has released revised guidelines for the installation and operation of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in India. These guidelines aim to promote the adoption of EVs by creating a robust and accessible charging network. The revised guidelines supersede previous versions and are effective immediately.

The guidelines apply to manufacturers, owners, and operators of EV charging stations located in public, semi-public, and private areas. They also extend to power utilities and central and state agencies.

Objectives of the Guidelines

1. To drive EV adoption by making charging stations safe, reliable and accessible.
2. To develop a robust charging network across the Nation initially prioritising the essential locations.
3. To increase the viability of charging stations by facilitating public land at promotional rates, expeditious approval of electricity connections and standardising pricing of power supply.
4. To encourage charging of EVs during solar hours.
5. To prepare the electricity grid to handle the increased demand from EV charging.

These guidelines are expected to play a crucial role in accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles in India. They aim to create a favourable environment for the growth of the EV charging infrastructure.

Read more/Download ❯

MoP issues Guidelines for Installation and Operation of Battery Swapping and Charging Stations

The Ministry of Power (MoP) has issued "Guidelines for Installation and Operation of Battery Swapping and Charging Stations", which shall be applicable to swappable battery providers, owners and operators of battery charging stations and swapping stations in India.

The main objectives of the guidelines are to promote battery swapping as an alternative method for powering electric vehicles compared to fixed battery systems, encourage battery-as-a-service models, and develop a robust battery swapping ecosystem. Owners of battery charging stations or battery swapping stations can utilise their existing electricity connections for charging swappable batteries, with or without increasing the connected load. Larger vehicles-

like trucks and buses may deploy liquid-cooled swappable batteries for efficient charging and swapping. Adherence to electrical safety standards for the stations are also emphasized with extra provisions.

Clauses 5, 7, 9, 11, sub-clause 5 of clause 12, and 20 of the principal guidelines titled "guidelines for installation and operation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure – 2024", shall also be applicable for battery charging stations, battery swapping stations and battery providers. These include provision of public land at promotional/subsidised rates for public charging stations, the tariff for electricity supply to EV charging stations and guidelines for charging station network. This ensures that these facilities are integrated within broader EV infrastructure planning.

RenewableWatch ❯

MNRE released draft Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) introduced a draft for India's green hydrogen certificate scheme, aiming to boost transparency and accountability within the sector. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) will act as the central authority, accrediting agencies to oversee the monitoring, verification, and certification of green hydrogen projects.

The scheme outlines detailed guidelines for calculating the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity of green hydrogen production and sets up a rigorous certification process. The move ensures both the traceability and the environmental integrity of green hydrogen.

Certified carbon verification agencies will be responsible for validating and verifying carbon credits associated with green hydrogen production, conducting annual reviews of producers' claims. Producers must register on a specific platform and follow the measurement, reporting, and verification framework outlined by the scheme.

The scheme assures international buyers about India's compliance with established standards, enhancing confidence in green hydrogen exports.

Energetica India ❯

India Launches Scheme Guidelines for Implementation of Pilot Projects for Green Hydrogen

The Government of India has launched a new scheme implementation guidelines to promote the production and utilization of green hydrogen through innovative methods and pathways. The scheme guidelines aim to explore and validate the potential of green hydrogen as a clean and sustainable energy source.

This scheme guidelines are titled Scheme Guidelines for implementation of Pilot projects for production and use of Green Hydrogen using innovative methods/pathways in the Residential, Commercial, Localized Community, Decentralized/Non- Conventional, applications, including any new sector or technology not covered in previous Mission schemes.

Key Objectives of the Scheme

1. Support the development of innovative technologies for green hydrogen production, including methods like floating solar-based hydrogen production and biomass-based hydrogen production.
2. Promote the use of green hydrogen and its derivatives as a fuel for decentralized applications such as cooking, heating, off-grid electricity generation, and off-road vehicles.
3. Validate the technical feasibility and performance of green hydrogen in various applications, including household, commercial, and community settings.
4. Ensure the safe and secure use of green hydrogen and its derivatives.

The expenditure for the scheme will be met from the budget provisions allocated to the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

Energetica India ❯

Government of India notifies new labelling rules for green products

In alignment with the 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) Mission announced by Prime Minister of India in 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Eco-mark Rules on 26th September 2024. It replaces the Eco-mark scheme of 1991.

The scheme will encourage the demand for environment-friendly products aligning with the principles of 'LIFE', promote lower energy consumption, resource efficiency and circular economy. The scheme seeks to ensure accurate labelling and prevent misleading information about products.

Products accredited under the Eco-mark Scheme will adhere to specific environmental criteria, ensuring minimal environmental impact. It will build consumer awareness of environmental issues and encourage sustainable consumption. It will also motivate manufacturers to shift towards environmentally friendly production.

The scheme will be implemented by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

The scheme marks a significant step in promoting sustainable lifestyles and, through individual and collective decision making, encourages sustainable consumption in India. It aligns with global sustainability goals and reflects the government's commitment to conservation and protection of the environment.
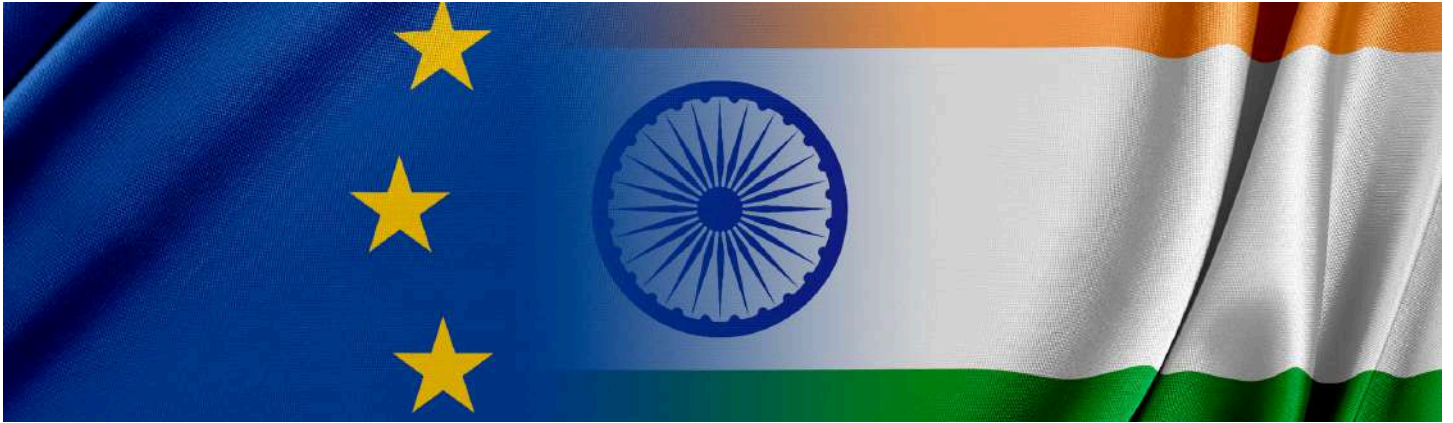
Download Notification ❯

PIB ❯

MNRE NOTIFICATIONS:

- Call for proposals for setting up Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under Research and Development (R&D) Scheme of the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)
- Solar Thermal Systems, Devices and Components (Quality Control) Order, 2024

EU/EFTA-India

5th India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting and 10th Foreign Policy and Security Consultations

1. India and the European Union held the 5th Strategic Partnership Review Meeting on 22 November in Brussels. The Indian side was led by Mr. Tanmaya Lal, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs and the EU side was led by Mr. Simon Mordue, Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Global Issues, European External Action Service (EEAS).

2. The 10th India-EU Foreign Policy and Security Consultations and the 10th India-EU Energy Panel were also convened on 21 November 2024. Secretary (West) also met Mr. Stefano Sannino, Secretary General, EEAS. The meetings were held during the 20th anniversary year of the India-EU Strategic Partnership and in the backdrop of intensification of engagement between India and the EU and its member states.

3. The meetings assessed the full spectrum of the bilateral cooperation between India and EU and the implementation of the detailed commitments set out in the 'India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025' agreed during the 15th India-EU Summit in 2020. The exchanges also focused on future priorities for India-EU ties and the new impetus in relations. The commitment by President von der Leyen in the Political Guidelines for 2024-2029 to develop a new India-EU strategic agenda was welcomed.

4. The discussions focused on a broad range of topics, including economic security, green-transition, defence and security cooperation, migration, mobility, India EU Connectivity Partnership, Global Gateway, and IMEC. Both sides also discussed furthering cooperation in the sphere of innovation, science and technology, including positive developments in the context of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), and the opportunities to increase people-to-people contacts in education and research.

5. They also took stock of the ongoing negotiations for Free Trade Agreement, Investment Protection Agreement and Agreement on Geographical Indications and agreed on their importance.

6. They welcomed cooperation at the multilateral level and appreciated the regular bilateral dialogue on economic issues, including on resilient supply chains in the context of the TTC. Both sides looked forward to a successful second TTC Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi in 2025. They looked forward to the next edition of the India-EU Human Rights Dialogue.

7. India and the EU welcomed their partnership on global matters, enhanced cooperation in the multilateral system (including G20) and on humanitarian issues, including disaster risk management in third countries. Both sides unequivocally condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations including cross-border attacks.

8. Both sides underlined the importance of the India-EU Strategic Partnership in addressing global challenges. They reiterated their shared commitment to promoting a free, open, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific. India welcomed the European Union's increasing engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. Both sides emphasized that the rules-based international order must respect sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peaceful resolution of disputes. They underscored the need for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine in accordance with international law and consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. They expressed their deep concern at the situation in the Middle East/West Asia and underlined the need for early restoration of peace and stability.

9. The two sides looked forward to the convening of the next India-EU Summit in 2025 and the valuable opportunity this would afford to advance relations.

Ministry of External Affairs ❯

India and Italy announced five-year strategic action plan for key sectors

India and Italy unveiled an ambitious five-year strategic action plan outlining specific initiatives in key sectors of defence, trade, clean energy and connectivity following extensive talks between Prime Minister of India and his Italian counterpart.

The action plan 2025-29 identified 10 specific pillars for advancing bilateral engagement that included economic cooperation and investments, energy transition, space, defence, security, migration and mobility, people-to-people exchanges.

In the talks held on the sidelines of the G20 summit, Prime minister of India and Prime Minister of Italy also resolved to work together on multilateral and global platforms for upholding shared values of democracy, rule of law and sustainable development, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Ministry of External Affairs ➤

Commerce Secretary visits Norway for implementation of Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Sunil Barthwal, accompanied by senior officials, visited Norway on 22nd November 2024. The visit was aimed at furthering the objectives of Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) and unlocking the large market in EFTA countries for Indian exports of goods & services and push for early implementation of $100 bn investment. TEPA was signed in March 2024.

TEPA is a modern and ambitious Trade Agreement which India signed with four developed nations - an important economic bloc in Europe. The agreement will give a boost to Make in India and provide opportunities to the young & talented workforce. EFTA is offering 92.2% of its tariff lines which covers 99.6% of India's exports. The EFTA's market access offer covers 100% of non-agri products and tariff concession on Processed Agricultural Products (PAP). India is offering 82.7% of its tariff lines which covers 95.3% of EFTA exports. India has offered 105 sub-sectors to the EFTA and secured commitments in 114 from Norway. TEPA would stimulate our services exports in sectors of our key strength / interest such as IT services, business services, personal, cultural, sporting and recreational services, other education services, audio-visual services etc. Services offered from EFTA include better access through digital delivery of Services (Mode 1), commercial presence (Mode 3) and improved commitments and certainty for entry and temporary stay of key personnel (Mode 4).

TEPA will give impetus to "Make in India" and Atmanirbhar Bharat by encouraging domestic manufacturing in sectors such as Infrastructure and Connectivity, Manufacturing, Machinery, Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, Food Processing, Transport and Logistics, Banking and Financial Services and Insurance.

TEPA is expected to accelerate the creation of a large number of direct jobs for India's young aspirational workforce in the next 15 years in India, including better facilities for vocational and technical training. TEPA also facilitates technology collaboration and access to world leading technologies in precision engineering, health sciences, renewable energy, Innovation and R&D.

Shri Barthwal met Mr Tomas Norvoll, State Secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries of Norway for discussions on promoting trade and investments, mobility for Indian professionals, re-energizing existing institutional mechanisms and next steps for the TEPA ratification. The Commerce Secretary also called on H.E. Ms Cecilie Myrseth, Minister of Trade and Industry and H.E. Mr Jan Christian Vestre, Minister of Health and Care Services. In addition, the Commerce Secretary visited Storting- The Norwegian Parliament and met with Ms Trine Lise Sundnes, MP Chair of the delegation to EFTA and EEA Parliamentary Committees and Mr Nicolai Astrup,MP and underlined the need for early ratification of TEPA.

The visit also included discussions with business stakeholders including Norwegian Chamber of Commerce(NHO), Innovation Norway, Shipbuilders Association, Raeder Bing Law Firm and leaders/CEOs of several large Norwegian companies representing diverse sectors, in particular, renewable energy, shipping industry, consumer goods, green hydrogen, textiles, seafood, mining, Information technology and other sectors of mutual interest. The Commerce Secretary highlighted unprecedented opportunities for Norwegian industry as the Indian economy rises from being the fifth largest economy to becoming the third largest economy in the world over the next 3-4 years.

PIB ➤

🔍 SESEI Key Activities (Aug '24 to Nov'24)

Project SESEI is a longstanding action of the European Commission together with EFTA and the three European Standardisation Organisations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI). By having an expert on European standardisation in Delhi on a long-term influence into the Indian standardisation programmes i.e. roadmaps and priorities has been obtained.

Acknowledging the benefits accrued and desired needs to continue this important project, its sixth phase started in August 2024. In this section we provide you with a brief insight of the various activities undertaken by the SESEI expert for the period starting August 2024 until November 2024.

Important Meetings and Interactions:

1. **Meeting with BIS IRD:** SESEI expert held a meeting with the International Relations Department of BIS to primarily discuss the proposed Framework Licensing Agreement (FLA) between BIS and CEN-CENELEC, ISO/PC 348 and drafting and signing of Temporary Copyright agreement to address request of various BIS committee to study CEN/CENELEC standards.

2. **TED 28-Intelligent Transport Systems of BIS:** TED 28/P6 Panel on ADAS has already made efforts to create standards based on EU standards. SESEI has consolidated the list of EU standards on ADAS to study/review by BIS TED 28 P6 panel on ADAS and informed its linkages with closure of Framework Licensing Agreement or temporary copyright agreement.

3. **Meetings of Digital Signature Panel, SSD10/P-4:** During the Meetings of Digital Signature Panel, SSD 10/P-4 of BIS, the panel reviewed and modified Indian Standards based on,- ETSI EN 319 142-1, ETSI EN 319 122- 1, ETSI EN 319 132-1 and ETSI TR 119 001. SESEI is working with BIS to adopt these ETSI standards as Indian standards.

4. **TEC working group on Industry 4.0/Smart manufacturing:** Draft technical report on Industry 4.0/Smart manufacturing was discussed during the meeting. SESEI has provided inputs to this report covering key policy initiatives and standardization work in Europe in support of Smart Manufacturing.

5. **Meeting with CEN CENELEC officials:** SESEI expert held a meeting with CEN CENELEC officials to discuss:

   - "European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS)", and to understand what CEN-CENELEC are doing on sustainability reporting standards as it is a topic of interest for India.
   - The work being done by NHLML (a government agency) to support BIS, India, in upgrading their existing standards related to ropeways.

Events & Conferences attended by SESEI Expert as speaker:

- **27th IEEE Symposium on Wireless Personal Multimedia Communication (WPMC) 2024 "Secure 6G – AI Nexus: Where Technology Meets Humanity" organized by Sharada University, Greater Noida on November 18, 2024:** SESEI expert as a panellist in the session on "Looking forward towards 6G - Research Opportunities, Challenges and Industry expectations". provided Overview of 3GPP, ITU-R timeline and vision about 2030 and beyond, EU Research & Development and Policy Initiatives for 5G and beyond etc. **Click here** for the copy of presentation

- **Seminar on Safety and Compliance requirements of EV Technologies organized by CII-IQ with Defence Institute of Quality Assurance on October 9, 2024:** SESEI expert as a speaker shared a presentation covering 1) EU Scenario around Electric Vehicle 2) EU: Key Directives, Regulation, Policy initiatives and Standardization (safety requirements) 3) EU-India Partnership. **Click here** for the copy of presentation

- **International Conference on Progressive Computational Intelligence, Information Technology, and Networking organized by Manav Rachna International Institute of Research & Studies (MRIIRS), October 24, 2024:** SESEI expert as a keynote speaker at the Inaugural ceremony explained basics around Standards & key policies initiatives and standardization work around 5G/6G, AI, Data & quantum technologies in India and Europe. **Click here** for the copy of presentation

🔍 SESEI Key Activities (Aug 2024 to Nov 2024)

Events & Conferences attended by SESEI Expert as speaker:

- **Spreading the Net. The Future of Telecom" at the BRICS Future Forum on September 18, 2024:** SESEI expert as a panellist shared the status of 5G deployment in India & Europe, early-stage R&D and pre-standardization of 6G etc. **Click here** for the copy of presentation

- **2nd Safe City and Intelligent Mobility India 2024 organized by Bharat Exhibitions on August 22, 2024:** SESEI expert highlighted EU work in the area of Smart mobility/Intelligent Transport System (ITS) such as EU Cooperative, connected and automated mobility (CCAM) Platform, C-ITS Platform, C-Roads Platform, EU Sustainable & smart mobility strategy, European Strategy on C-ITS etc. and standards developed by CEN/TC 278 and ETSI TC ITS.

- **Interactive Session on BIS Certifications and QCOs organized by Federation of European Business in India (FEBI) jointly with the Bureau of Indian Standards** (BIS for better understanding of BIS certification procedures such as testing of samples, timelines for certification etc.

📋 List of Draft/Published Standards

Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS):
- For the list of draft standards under wide circulation at BIS, please **click here>>**

Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC):
- For the list of **Standards/specifications and Essential Requirements** developed by TEC, please **click here>>**

Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI):
- List of **Work Items (WI)**, **Study work items contributions** and **New Item Proposals** is **available here>>**

📅 Upcoming Events

India Battery Recycling and Reuse Summit 2025	**When: 18 January 2025** **Where: New Delhi, India** The summit will explore battery recycling and reuse technologies, assess global trends, discuss safety standards, and highlight opportunities and challenges to advance battery sustainability in India. **More Information ❯**
International Conference on Recent Advances in Artificial Intelligence, Communication and Electronic Systems	**When: 5-7 February, 2025** **Where: Bharati Vidyapeeth's Institute of Computer Applications & Management, New Delhi & Online** The International Conference on "Recent Advances in Artificial Intelligence, Communication and Electronic Systems (RAICE 2025)" serves as the pinnacle of innovation and stands as a pivotal forum, bringing together researchers, professionals, and academicians to delve into the cutting-edge developments in the realms of Electronics and Communication Engineering through its seamless integration with the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence. **More Information ❯**

ABOUT PROJECT

The SESEI project (Seconded European Standardization Expert in India) is a project cofunded by five European partners, operating from New Delhi, India, with the objective to increase the visibility of European standardization in India and to promote EU/EFTA-India cooperation on standards and related activities. The SESEI Project (http://sesei.eu/) is managed by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI - http://www.etsi.org/ and is further supported by two other EU recognized Standards Organization, namely the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) – http://www.cencenelec.eu, as well as by the European Commission (www.ec.europa.eu) and the European Free Trade Association (http://www.efta.int/). It is a Standardization focused project, with a priority emphasis on the sectors falling under Digitization and Clean & Green Technologies etc.

SESEI | Seconded European Standardisation Expert in India
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