

As data usage grows, govt mulls review of satcom policy

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New Delhi: With an exponential growth in satellite communication (satcom) services in recent years, the Modi government is considering reviewing the satcom policy after over 20 years. As of now, the 1997 policy still guides the sector.

At the Broadband India Forum (BIF) international summit on 'India Satcom 2018', telecom secretary Aruna Sundararajan said, "India has entered the era of a very high growth rate in data consumption. The growth in mobile data usage has increased 15 times. As we are witnessing a paradigm change in the satcom sector, India must have 'fundamental rethink' on the satcom policy." The telecom secretary said that "100 to 200 million living in urban areas are not behind the high growth rate in data consumption, but it is the people living in rural areas who are the driving force".

She said the new digital communications policy aims to provide universal broadband connectivity at 50Mbps to every citizen by 2022, create four million additional jobs and likely to enhance the contribution of digital communications sector to 8% of GDP, from current 6%.

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