



“The National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018 seeks to enable the vision of Digital India and realizes the importance of Satcom sector in achieving the Digital dream. Satcom is expected to play an active role in providing high speed broadband access and affordable digital connectivity to the unserved and underserved. The Government is committed to un-locking the potential of the Satcom to provide affordable and accessible broadband everywhere by connecting the unserved and the underserved and thereby help bridge the digital divide.”

Ms. Sundararajan expressed happiness that India's digital ecosystem was moving into a higher orbit and acceleration and said that this was validated by key indicators such as an exponential growth in data consumption. More importantly this data growth, she said, was being driven by people using data for the very first time, most of who came from India's rural hinterland. Indians, she said, are now well and truly part of the digital age, both as consumers and creators.

Ms. Sundararajan also said that India needs to undertake a fundamental re-think on its SatCom policy in light of emerging requirements led by 5G and IoT among other developments. The policy would need to create a happy balance between autonomy, security and demand for services and a calibrated approach would be required to enable this and therefore bridge the communications deficit. She said that a future roadmap to enable this calls for serious engagement from all stakeholders that would create an ecosystem for significant investments, the potential for which she pegged at US\$100 Billion.

Lastly Ms. Sundararajan also highlighted that the satellite communications ecosystem was at the cusp of huge change led by new and emerging satellite technologies such as LEO (Low-earth-orbit) and MEO (Medium-earth-orbit) systems and India needs to examine how these systems can be brought into India.

Ms. Aruna Sundararajan, IAS
Telecom Secretary and Chairman, Telecom Commission, Govt of India



“The space technology plays a critical role in connecting the unconnected, despite the growing popularity of the terrestrial means of communication. When it comes to provide the connectivity to deep rural and inaccessible hilly areas, there is no alternative to Satcom.”

Dr. K Sivan
Secretary Department of Space (DoS) and Chairman, ISRO



“Satellite Communications can help fast track digital India initiatives. An enabling regulatory environment with increased private sector participation will catalyze the growth of Satcom in India as it did for Indian telecom”

Dr. Rajat Kathuria
Director and Chief Executive, ICRIER



“With the advent of the 5G standards, several radio technologies will be combined in a single network. A satellite solution can be an attractive approach to supplement terrestrial networks, provided this satellite infrastructure is seamlessly integrated and operated within the 5G system. During the India Satcom 2018, Thales Alenia Space disclosed its satellite component concept which can seamlessly supplement the 5G terrestrial network and provide access communications to the regular end user terminals.”

Mr. Jean Jacques Bruniera
Director, Strategic Initiatives, Thales Alenia Space



“In order to mainstream satellite communication it is crucial to encourage the private sector investment in the space industry in India and attract foreign investments in this area. For the first time New Digital Communications Policy has outlined the government vision for Satcom and its ability to expand the use of broadband in every nook and corner of India. To make satellite bandwidth more affordable to consumers and use of new innovations will be key to change the landscape of communications in India and should be adopted on a large scale.”

Mr. T.V. Ramachandran
President, Broadband India Forum