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## Time to review satcom policy: Telecom secy

**Surendra.Singh**  
@timesgroup.com

**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' here, telecom secretary Aruna Sundararajan said, "India has entered the era of a very high growth rate in data consumption. The growth in mobile data

**India has entered the era of a very high growth rate in data consumption. The growth in mobile data usage has increased 15 times. Data is the new asset**

**Aruna Sundararajan |**  
TELECOM SECRETARY

usage has increased 15 times. Data is the new asset. 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 behind the exponential growth". Sundararajan said in an era of 5G and Internet of Things (IOT), the demand for communication infrastructure "far from slowing down, will increase exponentially".

She said the new digital communications policy or new telecom policy, which was ap-

proved by the Cabinet on September 26, 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%.

Isro chairman K Sivan, who could not attend the summit as he was busy with work related to recently launched Gsat29 communication satellite, hailed the BIF effort for bringing together all stakeholders in the satcom business for reaching a common ground.