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# Trai chief backs open sky policy for satellite tech

By **Mail Today Bureau** in Mumbai

TELECOM Regulatory Authority of India (Trai ) chairman RS Sharma on Thursday came out strongly in favour of an 'open sky policy' to unleash the full potential of satellite technologies in the country.

“The cost of data in India delivered via satellite technology is 400 times higher than that in the US, presenting a stark contrast to the telecom and mobile services domain where India is offering one of the cheapest tariffs in the world,” Sharma said.

Addressing the India SatCom 2019 meet

organised by Broadband India Forum, the Trai chairman said,

“the reason is not inefficiency of technology...the reason is that we have probably not

## Cost of data via Indian satellites is 400 times higher than US

allowed unleashing of market forces or not allowed to implement the open sky policy which was part of the earlier telecom policy

and also a part of the National Digital Communications Policy.”

Sharma observed that any protectionism in the satellite communications area would be to the detriment of consumers. Newer breeds of satellite communications technologies are coming up, opening up possibilities for advance applications, he added.

“So, it is not as if there are technological disadvantages. I think...regulatory disadvantages need to be ironed out,” he said. He said the government and Trai are aware of the need for unleashing market forces to benefit customers.