Unbundling of Layers to boost competition and efficiency: BIF

- *TRAI recommendations would enable increased sharing of network resources, facilitate entry of new players, reduce costs, encourage investments and promote innovation*
- *Timely recommendations on licensing reforms*

20th August 2021, New Delhi: Broadband India Forum (BIF), the leading policy forum and think-tank for digital transformation and broadband proliferation in the country, lauded the TRAI's recently released recommendations on Enabling Unbundling of Different Layers through Differential Licensing as an apt and timely step forward for the Sector. The recommendations uphold the objectives of the 'Propel India' mission of the NDCP 2018 fittingly, and would pave a progressive way forward for the sector in terms of improved technological prowess, healthy competition, effective operations and economies of scale.

Mr. TV Ramachandran, President, Broadband India Forum, commented on the development: *"The recommendations provision active sharing of network resources and infrastructure, which would lead to increased efficiency in delivery of services by the network operators. Besides significant cost-efficiencies, the recommendations, when implemented, would also act as a catalyst in enhancing investments in the sector. Possibly the first such measure in 26 years to reform the legacy structure of bundled licensing into segregated network layers, this is in line with the best global practices and would boost ease of doing business. This will greatly augment the ecosystem as entry of new players will raise both competition and technological innovation, thereby benefiting both the network operators and the consumers. It is noted from points 2.55 (g) and 3.1 (g) that migration would be permitted for existing operators to the segregated network layer, and we hope that suitable incentivisation may be provided for the same."*

Reforming the licensing and regulatory regime via unbundling of different network layers through differential licensing would help facilitate the entry of new players into the market, thereby increasing healthy competition and ease of doing business. They would also act as a catalyst for bringing in new technologies into the industry, which would promote innovation. Enabling sharing of network resources will further strengthen the foundation for deploying advanced wireless services like 5G/6G, by facilitating cooperation and partnerships.

About Broadband India Forum
Broadband India Forum (BIF) functions as an independent policy forum and knowledge-based think-tank that works for the development and enhancement of the entire broadband ecosystem in a holistic, technology-neutral and service-neutral manner. BIF has established itself as a thought leader and a credible and effective voice, to help propel the nation to achieve the country's ambitious vision of creating a Digital India. To achieve this, BIF works to promote the rapid development of policies, so as to facilitate affordable and high-speed ubiquitous broadband throughout the country.