

9th Annual India SatCom 2024: BIF Unveils How Sat-Com Can Connect The Un-Connected!

New Delhi, August 7, 2024: The meteoric rise of India's space Startup ecosystem, from just one player in 2022 to nearly 200 times in 2024 coupled with the satellite communications industry's projected explosion to USD 25 billion in 2028 showcases the transformative nature of the satellite communications technology. Recognising that the rapid expansion of this technology could revolutionise connectivity and bridge digital divide across India, **Broadband India Forum (BIF) organised India Satcom 2024, its 9th Flagship Summit on the theme of "Liberalized Satcom- The Beginning of a New Era" on 7th August 2024 at The Lalit, Delhi.** Currently, India ranks fourth in terms of investments in the SatCom sector, globally and the country is looking to attract more investments in the sector.

The conference commenced with a welcome address and introductory remarks by **Aruna Sundararajan**, Chairperson of BIF, who laid the foundation for a series of impactful discussions. **Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti**, Chairman, TRAI was the Chief Guest who also spoke at the Inaugural session. **Ms. Madhu Arora, Member (Technology), DoT** and **Shri. V.J. Christopher**, Wireless Advisor, WPC, DoT, were also the Special Guests of Honour for the Inaugural session. The Inaugural session also included an address by **Mr. Rahul Vats, Director**, Eutelsat OneWeb India who is also the Co-Chair of BIF's Satcom Committee. He gave the industry perspective of the satellite communications space.

There were three technical sessions of India Satcom 2024 that focused on contemporary themes. The first session was on 'Spectrum & Technical Issues in Satcom', with Ms. M. Revathi, JWA, WPC, DoT as the Session Chair and Ms. J. Sofi, Associate Director, ISRO as Guest of Honour. The Second Session was on 'Enablers of Satcom for Broadband & Broadcasting' with Mr. H. Rayappa, Director, (Satcom PO), ISRO as the Session Chair and Mr. Mukesh Mandal, GM (Bharat Net -II, BSNL) as the Special Guest of Honour. And the third technical session was on 'Emerging Market/Business Opportunities in Liberalised Satcom era' with Dr. P.K. Jain, Director (PMA), IN-SPACE as Session Chair and Mr. Arun Agrawal, DDG (Satellite), DoT, as the Special Guest of Honour.

Shri. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India said "India is steadfast in its commitment to bridge the digital divide. Satellite Communications provide ubiquitous coverage, irrespective of their location and terrain. Satellite Communications complements terrestrial communications and provides coverage to unserved and underserved areas of the country, which are economically and technologically unfeasible for terrestrial networks to connect. I wish to take this opportunity to wish Broadband India Forum a very happy India Satcom 2024"

Dr. Pawan Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPACE said "Satellite technology holds significant relevance in the digital economy. The urban rural divide still remains a challenge, with a large part of rural India not having access to broadband and many locations are still without reliable cellular and fiber connectivity. We should aspire to have every nook and corner of our country to be digitally connected with universal access at affordable cost to everyone in our country. I am sure that India Satcom 24 would provide a good platform to all the stakeholders, including the SATCOM, Telecom players, space startups, policy makers and industry associations for focussed discussions on complete Accessibility everywhere in the country and Universal

Affordability of basic voice and data service. We need to think innovatively to overcome the challenges and leapfrog in the global SATCOM race to make India the most connected country in the world.”

Smt Madhu Arora, Member (Technology), Department Of Telecommunication said “Rapid advancements in satellite communication technologies are revolutionizing mode of delivery of broadband services to both people and enterprises. The Government is looking to use the benefits of satcom technology to help connect the unconnected and under connected as well as help bridge the urban-rural divide across the country through affordable satcom services. BIF's India SatCom 2024 provides an important platform for all stakeholders to discuss, deliberate and collaborate for growth of this sector and be able to mainstream Satcom.

Smt. Aruna Sundararajan, Chairman BIF said “Riding on the back of progressive policies in the recent past, India's satellite communication sector is poised for significant growth, and is expected to reach \$25 billion by 2028 from its current levels of around \$ 2.3 billion. This growth is expected to be driven by the entry of private players, and the number of startups that have emerged in this space, which bodes well for the sector as it will help foster competition and innovation. I hope that BIF’s annual flagship event India Satcom 2024 will continue to play an important role in enabling satellite communication to bridge the digital divide and connect unserved and underserved communities”

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 & broadcasting 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.