

PRESS RELEASE

10th edition of India Satcom 2026: BIF ushers in the Next Era of Satellite Connectivity for a Digitally inclusive Viksit Bharat

New Delhi, 18 August 2026: 'India SatCom 2026' recognised as the largest and the most comprehensive conference for satellite communications in the country, was organised today by Broadband India Forum - the leading independent Think-Tank and Policy Forum for Digital Communications in the country on the theme "**Satcom: Enabler for Digital Inclusivity and Transformation,**".

The meteoric rise of India's space Startup ecosystem, from just one startup in 2022 to more than 400 today in 2026 coupled with the ambition of the space industry to attain a share of 8% of India's GDP by 2033 (from 2% as of today) and satellite communications industry's projected growth to USD 25 billion by 2028 and recognition of the rapid expansion of next generation Satellite Communications technology and its role in inclusive connectivity , achievement of " Broadband for all" and to help bridge the digital divide across India, were exemplified during the day long conference.

The event was graced by **Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Member, NITI Aayog; Shri Manish Sinha, Member (Finance), Digital Communications Commission, Department of Telecommunications; and Ms. Sophia Nestius Booth, Director of Science and Technology, British High Commission in India**, alongside several senior representatives from Government, such as WPC, DoT, ISRO and the industry.

Highlighting the rapid pace of technological change in satellite communications, **Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Member, NITI Aayog**, said, *"Satellite communication is witnessing a remarkable phase of technological evolution. Advances in smaller and more capable satellites, large constellations, software-defined systems, intelligent on-board processing and increasingly sophisticated antenna technologies are continuously expanding what can be delivered from space. These developments are transforming satcom sector into more dynamic and intelligent communications infrastructure."*

"Delivering a Special Address on the growing India-UK partnership in the telecommunications and space sectors, and the opportunities for deeper collaboration in satellite communications, **Ms. Sophia Nestius-Booth, Director of Science and Technology, British High Commission in India**, said, *"The India-UK partnership in telecoms and satellite technology continues to grow in both ambition and opportunity. As satellite communications become increasingly important to expanding connectivity, strengthening resilience and enabling new digital services, there is significant scope for our two countries to deepen collaboration across innovation, research and industry. Through the UK-India Centre for Innovation & Connectivity, part of the Technology Security Initiative, we are bringing together the strengths of the Indian and UK technology ecosystems to support the development of secure, interoperable and future-ready satellite solutions that deliver meaningful economic and societal benefits."*

Emphasising the complementary role of Satcom within India's broader connectivity ecosystem, **Shri Manish Sinha, Member (Finance), DCC, DoT**, said, *"Satcom is an indispensable complement to terrestrial and mobile networks, particularly in reaching areas where conventional infrastructure may be difficult to deploy and in addressing the last-mile connectivity challenge. The technology has matured, the ecosystem is ready, and the opportunity is immense. By effectively leveraging satellite as the complementary third layer of connectivity, India can bridge the digital divide faster, strengthen national resilience and unlock inclusive growth across India."*

The Conference also saw the release of two White Papers – First one on *"D2D -The Direct Line for Orbit to Device Integration"* in the Inaugural Session and, Second one on *"Cyber Security in Satcom - Trusted from Space to Ground"*. The paper on D2D examines the evolving Direct-to-Device ecosystem and its potential to complement terrestrial connectivity, while also addressing key spectrum, regulatory, standards and interoperability considerations. The paper on *Satcom Cyber Security* focuses on the security and resilience imperatives associated with the growing integration of satellite communications into India's digital infrastructure.

Reflecting on the significance and timeliness of the two publications, **Smt. Aruna Sundararajan, Chairperson, Broadband India Forum**, said, *"The release of these two White Papers comes at an important juncture in the evolution of India's satellite communications ecosystem. The D2D paper examines how satellite connectivity can complement terrestrial networks and extend the reach and resilience of digital services, while the Cyber Security paper addresses an equally critical requirement as satellite networks become more deeply integrated with national digital infrastructure. Together, the two papers seek to support an informed policy discourse around innovation, security, interoperability and the development of a future-ready Satcom ecosystem."*

About Broadband India Forum: Broadband India Forum (BIF) is 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, to facilitate affordable and high-speed ubiquitous broadband throughout the country.