BIF-TCCA's 2nd Critical Communications Conference Brings Global Leaders Together to Strengthen Mission-Critical Connectivity Ecosystem

Calls for collaborative efforts between Government and industry to develop Future-Ready and Resilient Communications

New Delhi, 2 September 2026: Building on the momentum of its inaugural edition — "Safeguarding the Future," held in August 2025 — the Broadband India Forum (BIF), in collaboration with Global Apex Body, The Critical Communications Association (TCCA), today held the second edition of Critical Communications India Conference, bringing together senior policymakers, regulators, emergency response agencies, public safety organisations, technology leaders and global industry experts.

Against the backdrop of recent devastating flash floods in Nepal, this conference highlights why secure, resilient, and always-available communications are a national necessity as climate events become more frequent and urban environments more complex, digital infrastructure more central to public administration. The conference provides a timely platform to examine the policy, technology and operational strategies needed to build next-generation critical communications networks capable of supporting emergency response, disaster management, public protection, transportation, utilities and strategic national infrastructure.

The Conference was presided over by **Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti**, Chairman, TRAI, the Chief Guest for the inaugural session. The inaugural session was also attended by **Shri Krishna S. Vatsa,** Head of Department & Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and **Shri Sanjay Agrawal,** Director, DCPW, as Guests of Honour. The event brought together eminent global leaders in mission-critical communications, including **Mr. Kevin Graham,** Chief Executive Officer, TCCA; Mr. David Deacon, Managing Director & CEO, **Etherstack**; Mr. Enrique Garcia, Head – Mission Critical Networks (MCN) & Enterprise for Southeast Asia, Oceania & India, **Ericsson**; and Mr. Emanuele Algieri, Head of Sales – Middle East, Africa & India, **Airbus**, among other senior policymakers, technology leaders and industry experts. The esteemed speakers emphasized the importance of robust, technology-neutral, and purpose-driven critical communications infrastructure that ensures redundancy, resilience, security, and interoperability.

Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI, highlighted several recommendations of TRAI related to the issues of critical communications for emergencies and disaster management. He said:

"*Critical communications are the backbone of public safety, emergency response and the continuity of essential services.****The evolving landscape of critical communications calls for a resilient, secure, reliable and integrated national framework supported by appropriate infrastructure, enabling policies, adequate spectrum and robust standards.*** *Key application areas include emergency response and management, Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR), mission-critical applications in Mass Rapid Transit Systems (MRTS), and safety and security applications across the transport sector, particularly the railways."*

Shri Krishna S. Vatsa, Head of Department & Member, NDMA, while urging BIF and the industry to come up with solutions for public safety and emergency response, said:

"Emergency communications are still a huge problem. ***Every major disaster exposes the same challenges—damage to telecom infrastructure, network congestion, inadequate redundancy and the inability of field responders to reliably exchange voice, location, maps and operational data.*** *Emergency communications cannot depend on any single technology; they require* ***a layered, interoperable and field-tested architecture combining mission critical terrestrial, satellite, and emerging technologies****."*

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. T.V. Ramachandran, President, Broadband India Forum**, said:

"Critical communications infrastructure proves its true worth not when everything is functioning normally, but when everything else begins to fail. ***While ordinary connectivity connects people, mission-critical connectivity protects them.*** *Disasters do not distinguish between technologies—they demand interoperability, resilience and seamless coordination. Every network, every agency and every stakeholder must work together to ensure seamless, resilient communications that ultimately save lives."*

The first day of the conference featured discussions on global developments in mission-critical communications, Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR), government-led critical communications initiatives, and the growing role of private LTE- and 5G-based captive networks in supporting essential services. The conference continues tomorrow with dedicated sessions on Broadband Public Protection and Disaster Relief (BB-PPDR) deployments, user and operator perspectives, mission-critical applications, control centres and device ecosystems, and interoperability.

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About Broadband India Forum (BIF) Broadband India Forum is an independent policy forum and think tank working towards the development of India's broadband and broadcasting ecosystem in a technology- and service-neutral manner.

About TCCA The Critical Communications Association (TCCA) is a global not-for-profit body representing critical communications professionals — users, operators and industry — and supporting the development of standardised, secure and interoperable mission-critical communications technologies worldwide.