International Institute of Communications

India Digital Communications and Media Forum

Date: 27th - 28th August 2025

Location: New Delhi, India

Agenda: Wednesday 27 August

08:15 - 09:00: Registration & Networking

09:00 - 09:15: Welcome

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

09:15 - 09:30: Opening keynote address: Connecting the unconnected

Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

09:30 - 10:15: Keynote panel: Nurturing a vibrant tech-co / telco ecosystem

Moderator:

Vivan Sharan, Partner, Koan Advisory Group

Speakers:

Rahul Vatts, Chief Regulatory Officer, Bharti Airtel

Ambika Khurana, Chief Regulatory & Corporate Affairs Officer, Vodafone India

Sandeep Aurora, Group Director & Head, Public Policy and Government Affairs, Microsoft India & South Asia

Ravi Gandhi, President & Chief Public Policy & Regulatory Officer, Reliance Jio

10:15 - 11:15: Connecting the unconnected

• Universal and Meaningful Connectivity (UMC): what should India's strategy be to improve connectivity, particularly in rural areas, and enhance affordability, devices and skills?

• Broadband for all – what role for LEO satellite, D2M, community networks, FWA?

Moderator:

Tony Verghese, Partner, JSA Advocates & Solicitors

Speakers:

Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Deputy Director General, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications

TV Ramachandran, President, Broadband India Forum

Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Co-Founder DeepTech, Bharat Foundation (AI4India.org)

Vibha Mehra, Vice President, Government Relations APAC, Nokia

Tapan Kumar Patra, Director, ACTO (Association of Competitive Telecom Operators)

11:15 - 11:45: Networking break

11:45 - 12:45: Commercialisation of alternative infrastructure solutions and new-age networks

Moderator:

Amit Kushwaha, Director, External & Regulatory Affairs, India, Oceania & ASENA, AT&T

11:45 – 12:15: Building on India's rapid 5G rollout – sustainable monetisation strategies

Speakers:

Umang Jindal, Head Networks Software and Performance Market Area India, Oceania and Southeast Asia, Ericsson India Private Limited

Akhilesh Kumar Trivedi, Advisor (NSL) – II, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

12:15 – 12:45: Enablers of enterprise solutions, cloud services, private networks and VoIP market growth

Speakers:

Anita Kumar, Senior Manager, Government Affairs, Cisco India

Vishwanathan Subramaniam, Deputy Manager, Public Policy & Advocacy, Lightstorm

12:45 - 13:45: Networking lunch

13:45 - 15:00 : Enabling the creative economy: fulfilling India's promise as a leader in, and exporter of, storytelling and digital creative skills

- From grand visions to substance: what are the key policy and regulatory building blocks?
- Examples of initiatives in the animation / visual effects / gaming sectors

Moderator:

Dr Sameer Guduru, Director Digital Economy and Strategic Technologies, United States India Business Council (USIBC), U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Speakers:

Rahul Bhuraria, Senior Vice President, Technology – Data Preparation, Nielsen

Devhuti Bakshi, Director, Public Policy, E-Gaming Federation of India

Biren Ghose, Founder & CEO, Astra Studios

15:00 - 15:30: Networking break

15:30 - 16:00: Keynote: IndiaAI Mission - key pillars

Abhishek Singh, CEO IndiaAI & Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

16:00 - 17:30: Partnerships for equity in an AI-driven creative economy

- AI-adoption across the AVGC value-chain: early trends
- Regulating new creative economy value chains: global experiences
- Anticipating the future of work and of storytelling in the creative industries
- Gearing up for the AI Impact Summit

Moderator:

Vivan Sharan, Partner, Koan Advisory Group
Speakers:
Meghna Bal, Director, Esya Centre
Arun Anant, Advisor, Hyperstate Technologies
Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Co-Founder DeepTech, Bharat Foundation (AI4India.org)
Smrithi Ramesh, Outreach and Public Policy, Cloudflare
Sudipto Banerjee, Deputy Director, Public Policy, Nasscom
Abhishek Singh, CEO IndiaAI & Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
In collaboration with the ***AI Knowledge Consortium (AIKC)***

17:30: Closing remarks
Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

17:30 - 19:00: Networking reception follows the forum

Agenda: Thursday 28 August

08:15 - 09:00: Registration & Networking

09:15 - 09:30: Welcome
Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

09:30 - 10:00: Keynote: Technology & Media: the future of Indian entertainment
Shri. Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)

10:00 - 11:00: Agile rule making for the digital economy – with a particular focus on:
- Telecommunications Act
- Personal Data Protection Act

Moderator:
Abhishek Malhotra, Senior Counsel, Member of the Bar Councils of Delhi and California
Speakers:
Shahana Chatterji, Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co
Nitin Kala, Co-Founder Partner, RegLaw Chambers

11:00 - 11:30: Networking break

11:30 - 12:00: Keynote: Adapting to digital transformation and changing consumption patterns: remaining relevant and accessible to all.
Gaurav Dwivedi, Chief Executive Officer, Doordarshan

12:00 - 12:45: International perspectives

• Connecting the unconnected – what are your greatest achievements; what are your next priorities?
• Cooperation/collaboration between regulators, policy makers and industry – examples
• International collaboration

Moderator:
Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications
Speakers:
Pratompong Srinuan, Executive Director of Policy Analysis Bureau, The Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand (NBTC)
Cheki Dorji, Executive Engineer, Division of Telecom and Space, Government Technology Agency, Royal Government of Bhutan
Anil Kumar Dutta, Joint Secretary, E-Governance Board, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Nepal

12:45 - 13:30: Networking lunch

13:30 - 15:00: Differentiated content regulation in the 21Century: beyond 'push and pull' comparisons

• What are the key conceptual and functional points of difference between content forms?
• Are existing nodal and general laws sufficient to both protect consumers and drive competition?
• What lessons can be drawn from other countries and regions in their approach to digital content regulation?

Moderator:
Rajesh Mahapatra, Founder & Director, Odisha Dialogues
Speakers:
Mahima Kaul, Director Public Policy India, Netflix
Dr Vibodh Parthasarathi, Associate Professor, Centre for Culture, Media and Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia
Vineeta Dixit, Head of GA India and SEA, Spotify
Justice (Retd.) Gita Mittal, Chairperson, Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)
Deepali Sharma, Advisor (B&CS), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

15:00 - 15:15: Comfort break

15:15 - 15:35: Keynote: Initiatives of Ministry of Consumer Affairs for consumer protection against fraud

Nidhi Khare, IAS, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)

15:35 - 16:45: Trust, security and safety online: avenues for multi-stakeholder collaboration

• Situating frauds and scams in the Indian context
• Consumer protection and online safety: symbiotic regulatory approaches
• Civil society and industry groups as trusted flaggers
• Global anti-frauds and scams best practices in the public and private sectors

Moderator:
Berges Malu, Director for Public Policy, Koan Advisory Group
Speakers:
Pratishtha Arora, CEO, Social & Media Matters
Sachin Kakkar, Engineering Site Director – Privacy, Safety, and Security, Google
Sharat Chander, Director, Public Policy, Samsung
Priya Mahajan, Head of Asia Pacific Public Policy & Regulatory Counsel, Verizon Communications
John Khiangte, Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy, Microsoft
Nidhi Khare, IAS, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)
In collaboration with the **Safer Internet India coalition**

16:45 - 17:00: Closing remarks

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications