

**Message on the occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**  
**(WTISD) – 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2020**

I, on behalf of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) extend greetings to all on the occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD-20). Every year since 1969, we celebrate the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, which marks the founding of ITU on 17 May 1865 when the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris. This celebration also creates awareness of various advancements in the field of ICT and how it helps in development of society.

This year's theme "***Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***" is showing the way forward for the next 10 years to reflect on ICT advances for transition to smart and sustainable development with five strategic goals such as **Growth, Inclusiveness, Sustainability, Innovation and Partnership**.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that "The spread of information and communication technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies". ITU has made a concerted effort in this regard to highlight the role that ICTs will play in achieving the SDGs.

The thrust given in the 2030 Agenda is in line with India's ICT policy. India has adopted the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) in the year 2018 with specified strategic objectives to be achieved by the year 2022. These objectives of NDCP will promote the usage of ICT which will directly result in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. One of the important objectives of the NDCP is to create a robust digital communication infrastructure, which can be used for development in various sectors including Education, Healthcare, Energy, Employment, Innovation, etc. These policies will help in many ways to achieve all the overall socio-economic development envisaged in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the telecom infrastructure, particularly the broadband network has played a major role in raising to the occasion in supporting sudden surge in internet traffic due to increased economic and other online activities. The service providers have taken every step to keep up their network to ensure seamless connectivity which helped in the growth of digital economy in manifold during this unprecedented pandemic situation. On this day, we specially recognize the role of the telecom service providers and other stakeholders, who are playing a pivotal role in protecting the economy from danger of decline.

On the occasion of World Telecom and Information Society Day, as a regulator we proudly owe a deep sense of responsibility for our country and we will continue to work with all stakeholders to protect and support our citizen's right to communicate and connect using ICT.

**Dr. R S Sharma**  
**(Chairman TRAI)**