National Digital Communication Policy 2018

September 12, 2019

The National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 seeks to unlock the transformative power of digital communications networks – to achieve the goal of digital empowerment and improved well being of the people of India; and towards this end, attempts to outline a set of goals, initiatives, strategies and intended policy outcomes.

The National Communications Policy aims to **accomplish the following Strategic Objectives by 2022:**

- Provisioning of Broadband for All
- Creating 4 Million additional jobs in the Digital Communications sector
- Enhancing the contribution of the Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from ~ 6% in 2017
- Propelling India to the Top 50 Nations in the ICT Development Index of ITU from 134 in 2017
- Enhancing India's contribution to Global Value Chains
- Ensuring Digital Sovereignty

Vision

To fulfill the information and communication needs of citizens and enterprises through the establishment of a ubiquitous, resilient, secure, accessible and affordable Digital CommunicationsInfrastructure and Services; and in the process, support India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society

Missions

In pursuit of accomplishing these objectives by the year 2022,

the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 envisages **three Missions:**

I) Connect India: Creating Robust Digital Communications Infrastructure

- To promote Broadband for All as a tool for socio-economic development, while ensuring service quality and environmental sustainability.

   2022 Goals of Connect India:

1. Provide universal broadband connectivity at 50Mbps to every citizen
2. Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of India by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022
3. Enable100 Mbps broadband on demand to all key development institutions; including all educational institutions
4. Enable fixed-line broadband access to 50% of households
5. Achieve 'unique mobile subscriber density' of 55 by 2020 and 65 by 2022
6. Enable deployment of public Wi-Fi Hotspots; to reach 5 million by 2020 and 10 million by 2022
7. Ensure connectivity to all uncovered areas

II) Propel India: Enabling Next Generation Technologies and Services through Investments, Innovation and IPR generation

- To harness the power of emerging digital technologies, including 5G, AI, IoT, Cloud, and Big Data to enable the provision of future-ready products and services; and to catalyze the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0) by promoting Investments, Innovation, and IPR.

2022 Goals of Propel India:

1. Attract investments of USD 100 Billion in the Digital Communications Sector
2. Increase India's contribution to Global Value Chains

3. Creation of innovation-led Start-ups in Digital Communications sector
4. Creation of Globally recognized IPRs in India
5. Development of Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) in the field of digital communication technologies
6. Train/ Re-skill 1 Million manpower for building New Age Skills
7. Expand the IoT ecosystem to 5 Billion connected devices
8. Accelerate the transition to Industry 4.0

III) Secure India: Ensuring Sovereignty, Safety, and Security of Digital Communications

- To secure the interests of citizens and safeguard the digital sovereignty of India with a focus on ensuring individual autonomy and choice, data ownership, privacy, and security; while recognizing data as a crucial economic resource.

2022 Goals of Secure India:

1. Establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy, and choice of individuals and facilitates India's effective participation in the global digital economy
2. Ensure that net neutrality principles are upheld and aligned with service requirements, bandwidth availability and network capabilities including next-generation access technologies
3. Develop and deploy robust digital communication network security frameworks
4. Build capacity for security testing and establish appropriate security standards
5. Address security issues relating to encryption and security clearances
6. Enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens of safe and secure digital

communications infrastructure and services

Impact:

- The NDCP-2018 envisions supporting India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society by fulfilling the information and communications needs of citizens and enterprises by the establishment of a ubiquitous, resilient and affordable digital communications infrastructure and services.
- The 'Customer-focused' and 'application-driven' NDCP-2018 shall lead to new ideas and innovations, after the launch of advanced technology such as 5G, IoT, M2M, etc. which shall govern the telecom sector of India.