

CUTS INTERNATIONAL & CUTS INSTITUTE FOR REGULATION & COMPETITION

ROUNDTABLE ON

“DESIGN IN INDIA TO MAXIMIZE 5G OPPORTUNITIES”

FRIDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2018, NEW DELHI

BACKGROUND

India aims to enter the global manufacturing value chain for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment, which is necessary for meeting India's social security needs such as jobs, along with enhancing consumer welfare. However, in order to realise this dream, the focus in India must be placed on 'designing in India', which can only be realised by developing the relevant skillsets required for it. In other words, it is imperative for India to invest in skillsets required for 'innovation', if it wants to reap maximum benefits from the upcoming 5G-ecosystem. Thus, the focus needs to be enlarged from 'Make in India' to 'Design in India'.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in its '5G High Level Forum Steering Committee Report' had noted: 'There is an opportunity and need for India to connect to the evolving global eco-system around 5G. Given the imperative for various economic verticals to use 5G technologies, it is important to promote awareness of 5G and advance the related skills development within the country. The Committee recommends three initiatives - Attract global 5G conference events to India, set up national 5G events and create a comprehensive skills development program'.

Just like India has covered ground in creating an appropriate skillset base in the realm of software development, a similar thrust is required to be put on designing communication hardware in India. The need for the same has also resounded in the National Digital Communications Policy 2018 which called for 'Training/ Re-skilling 1 Million manpower for building New Age Skills by 2022'. It proposed two ways for it: 'Promoting Industry-Academia-Government partnerships to develop capacity and skills in line with future technology needs' and 'Using the training infrastructure available with telecom PSUs for skill development'. These will also be crucial to realise India's mission of 'Attracting investments of USD 100 Billion in the Digital Communications Sector'.

OBJECTIVE

With reference designs for future 5G ready mobile handsets already being unveiled by foreign companies in India, and considering the cruciality of 5G technology, and its potential impact on various pillars of the economy, it becomes imperative to deliberate upon and carve out a way forward vis-à-vis incentivising investments and developing skillsets required for Research and Development (R&D) in the ICT sector, which will ultimately lead to enhanced consumer welfare in the country.

AGENDA

- 16:00 – 16:30** **Registration and Tea/Coffee**
- 16:30 – 17:30** **Inaugural Session, “Make in India is important but Design in India is equally important”**
- When Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ‘Make in India’ campaign in 2014, the focus of the campaign was to compel national and multinational companies to manufacture in India - a vision which resonates with all of us.
- The focus would be on job creation, which requires skill development in the ICT sector. This, coupled with foreign investments would help in transforming India into a designing hub. Thus, the key question the session speakers would need to address, “What does the government in collaboration with industry players need to do to attract foreign investments and develop skills in the ICT sector?”
- The session will also witness the release of CUTS and CIRC Research Reports
- Chair** **Pradeep S Mehta**, Secretary General, CUTS International
- Speakers**
- **Yaduvendra Mathur**, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog
 - **Vikram Tiwathia**, Deputy Director General, Cellular Operators Association of India
- 17:30 – 18:00** **Tea/Coffee**
- 18:00 – 19:30** **Roundtable on “Role of key stakeholders in attracting investments and developing skills in India’s ICT sector”**
- Designing the innovation ecosystem in India would require participation of three key stakeholders: the corporate sector (lead and implement change), the entrepreneurial sector (generate ideas for change) and the government (facilitate and direct change). Each of them would need to play critical roles in developing and deploying innovation-driven solutions in India in the coming years. Their efforts will impact the fourth stakeholder group, i.e. consumers, who aspire to benefit through enhanced product choice and availability, competitive pricing, better quality and innovative products and services, fair competition in the market etc. The session would bring together one representative from these groups and discuss the roles, opportunities, challenges and solutions from the perspective of the key stakeholders.
- Chair** **Arvind Mayaram**, Chairman, CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition
- Speakers**
- **Vipin Tyagi**, Executive Director, C-DoT
 - **Santanu Mukherjee**, Head, Ex Lege Chambers
 - **Debashish Bhattacharya**, Director-Technology & Policy, Broadband India Forum
 - **Shubha N. Bhambhani**, Principal General Manager (C&M), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
 - **Tarun Khurana**, Partner and Patent Attorney, Khurana & Khurana Advocates and IP Attorneys
- 19:30 – 21:00** **Dinner**