



संचार मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS



Presents



COAI DIGICOM SUMMIT 2026

India's Techade: Accelerating and the Shaping Digital Future



CONTENTS

03	Summit Gallery
04	About COAI DIGICOM SUMMIT 2026
05	Objectives Of The Summit In 2026
06	Foreword
08	Inaugural Session
13	Session I
15	Session II
17	Session III
19	Session IV
21	Action Points And Way Forward
22	About COAI
23	Our Partners



SUMMIT GALLERY





ABOUT COAI DIGICOM SUMMIT 2026



The COAI DigiCom Summit 2026 was convened at a time when India's telecom sector is undergoing a major transformation, driven by 5G expansion, rapid growth in data consumption and the integration of AI into networks & services.

Telecom has moved beyond being a standalone industry to becoming a horizontal enabler of the wider digital ecosystem. It now forms the backbone of key national priorities such as Digital India, financial inclusion, e-governance, the startup ecosystem, commerce & innovation.



As India moves further into its 'Techade', the need for intelligent, resilient and secure digital infrastructure has become increasingly important. The summit brought together policymakers, regulators, industry leaders and global stakeholders to deliberate on the future of India's telecom and digital ecosystem, including readiness for 6G, IoT, AI-driven applications and immersive digital experiences.



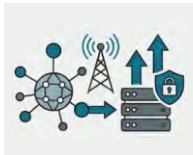
OBJECTIVES OF THE SUMMIT IN 2026



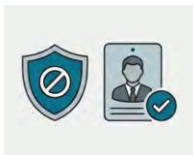
Understanding the transformation of telecom into a [horizontal enabler](#) across sectors.



Examining [policy and regulatory challenges](#) in the context of emerging technologies such as AI and 6G.



Identifying [infrastructure requirements](#) for building [resilient](#) and [scalable networks](#).



Addressing [challenges related to spam, fraud and digital trust](#).



Exploring [opportunities](#) for indigenous manufacturing and innovation.



Assessing the role of telecom in [driving inclusive growth](#) and [livelihood generation](#).

The Summit also emphasized themes such as [problem-solving](#), [innovation](#), [collaboration](#) and [trust](#), which are critical to achieving the [vision of a digitally empowered India](#).



FOREWARD



Mr. Abhijit Kishore
Chairperson, COAI

The [COAI DigiCom Summit 2026](#) was conceived as a platform to bring together the diverse voices shaping India’s digital future — policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, technology providers and innovators — at a time when the telecom sector stands at a defining moment of transformation.

Held under the theme, “[India’s Techade: Accelerating and Shaping the Digital Future](#)”, the Summit captured the growing realisation that telecom today is far more than a connectivity sector. It [has evolved into a strategic national infrastructure layer powering every major component of the digital economy](#) — from financial services and governance to manufacturing, healthcare and enterprise transformation.

As networks become increasingly

software-driven and compute-intensive, the [convergence of telecom, cloud, AI and digital infrastructure](#) will fundamentally reshape the industry. This transformation presents enormous opportunities for India — not only to strengthen domestic digital capabilities, but also to [emerge as a global leader in next-generation communications technologies](#).

At the same time, the industry must continue to work collectively towards strengthening digital trust and consumer confidence. [Trusted communications, cyber resilience, responsible innovation and balanced regulatory frameworks](#) will be essential to ensuring long-term sustainability and growth of the ecosystem.

The Summit discussions reaffirmed the importance of continued partnership between the [Government, regulators and industry](#). The remarkable progress achieved by India’s telecom sector over the past decade has been built on collaboration and the future will require even deeper alignment as the ecosystem evolves.

I congratulate the COAI team & all participating stakeholders for making [COAI DigiCom Summit 2026](#) a highly meaningful and forward-looking initiative. I hope the insights & deliberations captured in this report contribute meaningfully towards shaping the next phase of [India’s digital growth](#) story.



FOREWARD

Over the last decade, India's telecom ecosystem has enabled one of the world's most significant digital transformations. [Affordable connectivity, rapid technology adoption and strong industry investments](#) have created the foundation for Digital Public Infrastructure, enterprise digitisation and large-scale consumer inclusion. However, the sector is now moving towards a much more complex and dynamic environment shaped by AI-driven networks, emerging digital risks, evolving customer expectations and next-generation technologies.

Organised under the theme “[India's Techade: Accelerating and Shaping the Digital Future](#)”, the [COAI DigiCom Summit 2026](#) brought together diverse perspectives on how the ecosystem can collectively prepare for this transition.

One of the strongest themes emerging from the discussions was the growing importance of [digital trust](#). As communication systems become increasingly interconnected, the risks associated with spam, fraud and cyber threats continue to evolve rapidly. [Building trusted communication frameworks and deploying intelligent prevention systems](#) will therefore remain central priorities for the industry going forward.

Moreover, networks are increasingly becoming software-defined, [AI-enabled and enterprise-oriented](#), supporting use



Mr. Rahul Vatts
Vice-Chairperson, COAI

cases far beyond traditional connectivity. Technologies such as [edge computing, network slicing, automation and AI-led optimisation](#) are reshaping both network architecture and service delivery models. Achieving the full potential of these technologies will require balanced and forward looking regulatory frameworks, stronger collaboration across stakeholders and [continued investments in digital infrastructure and innovation ecosystems](#).

I believe the [COAI DigiCom Summit 2026](#) successfully enabled meaningful dialogues on many of the important issues and helped bring greater alignment across the ecosystem and I congratulate [COAI](#) and all participating stakeholders for curating a highly relevant and future-oriented platform.



INAUGURAL SESSION



Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar
Hon'ble Minister of State for
Communications and Rural Development,
Government of India

“India’s telecom sector stands at an inflection point, shaped by strong Government policy support and industry-led investments. Over the last decade, we have seen a transformative journey driven by reforms in spectrum management, right of way and a modern regulatory framework. This progress reflects a partnership between the Government and the Industry, enabling scale, affordability and global competitiveness.

The industry has responded with massive investments, including a rapid 5G rollout in

just 22 months and one of the highest data usage levels globally. I request operators and manufacturers to focus on design-led manufacturing, build export-grade testing and certification facilities, and form joint ventures with global technology leaders for design, IP and talent development.

As AI, 6G & Quantum Communications evolve, the next phase must focus on design-led manufacturing and deeper R&D participation, so that India helps write global standards.”



Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti

Chairman, TRAI

“India’s telecom sector has, over the years, delivered connectivity at a **scale and affordability that is globally unparalleled**. This achievement has been possible due to a **combination of progressive policies, regulatory certainty and sustained investment** by the industry.

Over the last 10 years, the mobile network has **grown more than 4.5 times** and today, includes **one of the largest 5G deployments**. While capacity

augmentation continues, availability of **ubiquitous coverage** is increasingly the expectation of consumers.

Our ongoing efforts include recommending spectrum enhancements, developing **regulatory frameworks for indoor connectivity and digital consent**, and leveraging **AI for spam prevention** to ensure robust infrastructure and consumer protection.”



Mr. Abhijit Kishore
CEO, Vodafone Idea and Chairperson, COAI

“India’s telecom sector continues to anchor the nation’s digital transformation through connectivity at scale and globally unmatched affordability. Policy certainty and regulatory stability remain critical, as long-term infrastructure investments require a predictable framework that recognizes both capital intensity and the sector’s strategic economic role, alongside

continued constructive engagement between the Government, the Regulators and the Industry. Looking ahead, the sector must prepare for the next generation of connectivity, where future technologies will demand not just technological readiness but also alignment on standards, spectrum strategy and broader ecosystem development.”



Mr. Julian Gorman
Head - APAC, GSMA

“India’s digital transformation has reached a decisive phase, with mobile networks enabling digital public infrastructure and innovation at scale. However, for 6G leadership to be credible, 5G must evolve beyond consumer speeds into an engine

of industry transformation. With nearly 47% still offline, closing the usage gap and building trust will be critical to achieving inclusive and globally competitive digital growth.”



Mr. Rahul Vatts
Chief Regulatory Officer, Airtel
& Vice Chairperson, COAI

“We are at a pivotal moment where trust, resilience and innovation are becoming central priorities for the industry. There is clear recognition of the progress made in strengthening the regulatory and policy environment. At the same time, the industry remains committed to advancing

R&D, enhancing customer experience, and building more resilient networks. As AI begins to reshape the sector, stakeholders are geared to adapt and lead this transformation. Continued collaboration across the ecosystem will be critical in taking the industry forward.”



Mr. Nitin Bansal
Managing Director, Ericsson India

“As India advances its digital journey, networks must be secure, resilient and intelligent. The country has achieved one of the fastest 5G rollouts, with strong infrastructure and high data consumption. Going forward, 5G will act as critical infrastructure supporting advanced

applications. Technologies such as AI, cloud and 5G will drive digitalization, with industrial automation emerging as a key opportunity. The focus now is on building intelligent networks to support future growth.”



Mr. Ashwani Khillan
COO, Altius Telecom Infrastructure Trust

“India’s digital transformation is the outcome of a strong and well-aligned ecosystem, where progressive policy, a dynamic operator landscape and robust telecom infrastructure have worked in tandem over the last three decades. From enabling seamless digital services like UPI and e-commerce to building one of the

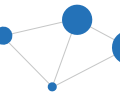
world’s largest 5G networks, the sector has fundamentally reshaped how India lives and works. Looking ahead, as technologies like AI and 6G take shape, telecom infrastructure will remain central to powering the next phase of inclusive, digital growth for the country.”



Lt. Gen. Dr. S.P. Kochhar
Director General, COAI

“Telecom today is not just about connectivity; it is a value-added horizontal powering sectors such as finance, healthcare, governance and enterprise. As we move into the next phase of India’s digital journey, the focus must shift to building intelligent, secure and resilient

networks anchored in trust and collaboration. This is the second edition of the COAI DIGICOM summit. We have been able to curate a unique event, and the best brains of the telecom industry have gathered to shed light on how techade belongs to India.”



SESSION I

Building Intelligent, Resilient And Scalable Networks



Ms. Radhika Gupta
(GSMA)

Dr. Ravi Gandhi
(Reliance Jio & Reliance Retail)

Dr. Magnus Ewerbring
(Ericsson)

Mr. Jagbir Singh
(Vodafone Idea)

Mr. Randeep Sekhon
(Airtel)

Mr. Ashwani Khillan
(Altius Telecom Infrastructure Trust)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Shri N. K. Bhola
Wireless Advisor



Mr. Sajan Paul
General Manager, HPE Networking, India



KEY LEARNINGS

SHIFT TO AI-NATIVE NETWORKS

Telecom is moving from rule-based architectures to AI-driven, intent-based networks, enabling predictive maintenance, automated optimisation and smarter operations.

FROM CONNECTIVITY TO COMPUTE-LED INFRASTRUCTURE

Future networks will be compute-driven, scalable and resilient, supporting IoT, automation and realtime applications at scale.

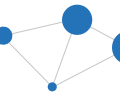
RESILIENCE AND RELIABILITY ARE CRITICAL

With use cases like smart cities, industrial automation and autonomous systems, networks must be highly secure, flexible and capable of handling massive data volumes.

COMMERCIAL VIABILITY WILL DETERMINE SCALE

While AI will drive innovation, success depends on sustainable business models balancing cost, performance and real-world impact, supported by strong ecosystem collaboration.





SESSIONS II

Tackling Spam and Digital Frauds through Shared Ecosystem Policy and Regulatory Aspects



Mr. Rahul Hakeem
(KPMG)

Mr. U.K. Srivastava
(Reliance Jio)

Mr. Rahul Vatts
(Bharti Airtel)

Shri Pushpendra Kumar Singh
(TRAI)

Shri Sanjeev Sharma
(DoT)

Ms. Ambika Khurana
(Vodafone Idea)

Mr. Jez Stanley
(British High Commission)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Shri Manish Sinha
Member (Finance)
Department of Telecommunications



KEY LEARNINGS

RISING THREAT TO DIGITAL TRUST

Spam and digital fraud are increasingly undermining consumer confidence and ecosystem integrity, making trust a critical priority.

NEED FOR A PROACTIVE, ECOSYSTEM-WIDE APPROACH

Effective mitigation requires AI-led detection, early fraud identification, and strong coordination across Government, telecom operators, digital platforms and financial institutions.

REGULATORY EVOLUTION AND PARITY ESSENTIAL

Frameworks like TCCCPR have been pivotal, but there is a need for uniform regulation across all communication channels to prevent misuse and close gaps.

SHIFT TO PREVENTION-FIRST STRATEGY

Leveraging AI/ML and large-scale analytics for real-time detection, along with cross-sector collaboration and consumer awareness, is key to combatting fraud at scale.





SESSION III

Building Intelligent, Resilient And Scalable Networks



- Ms. Jeanette Whyte**
(GSMA)
- Mr. Vinay Shrivastava**
(5GIF)
- Dr. Magnus Ewerbring**
(Ericsson)
- Shri S.T. Abbas**
(TEC & TCIL)
- Shri Anil Kr. Bhardwaj**
(DoT)
- Mr. Julian Gorman**
(GSMA)
- Dr. Kiran Kumar Kuchi**
(IIT Hyderabad)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Dr. Punit Rathod
Sr. Lead – Technical Standards, Qualcomm



KEY LEARNINGS

6G IN RESEARCH, 5G ADVANCED AS THE BRIDGE

While 6G is in the R&D and standardisation phase, the immediate evolution will be driven by 5G Advanced, enabling enterprise, mission-critical and differentiated services.

POLICY AND MONETISATION ARE KEY ENABLERS

Future growth will depend on innovation-friendly policy frameworks and sustainable monetisation models to support continued network investments.

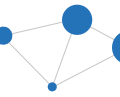
SPECTRUM AND AI WILL SHAPE NEXT-GEN NETWORKS

Rising data demand and connected devices will require greater spectrum harmonisation, while AI will drive advanced applications and network efficiency.

INDIA WELL-POSITIONED FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

With its scale, manufacturing push and active role in global standards, India has a strong opportunity to lead in 6G development through collaboration and innovation.





SESSION IV

Digital Infrastructure and Indigenous Ecosystem



Mr. Anuj Sidharth
(MediaTek)

Mr. Dinesh Shiv
(Zoom Communications)

Shri D. Manoj
(TRAI)

Dr. R.K. Upadhyay
(C-DOT)

Mr. Sunil Gupta
(Yotta)

Mr. Sandeep Sharma
(Tech Mahindra)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Shri Deb Kumar Chakrabarti
Member (Services)
Department of Telecommunications



Dr. Devesh Tyagi
Chief Executive Officer, NIXI



KEY LEARNINGS

STRONG FOUNDATION FOR SELF-RELIANCE

India has made significant progress in telecom manufacturing, supported by initiatives like PLI and possesses key strengths in scale, talent, capital and policy support.

NEED TO BUILD CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMPUTE CAPACITY

Accelerating fiberisation, submarine cable investments and sovereign AI compute infrastructure is critical to support next-generation technologies.

SHIFT TOWARD INDIGENOUS INNOVATION

Greater focus is required on domestic adoption of indigenous solutions, enabling trust, innovation and global competitiveness.

NEXT PHASE - DEEP MANUFACTURING AND R&D

Achieving true self-reliance will depend on advancing component manufacturing, semiconductor development and indigenous R&D, especially in the context of global supply chain disruptions and geopolitical risks.





ACTION POINTS AND WAY FORWARD

TRANSITION TO AI-NATIVE, INTELLIGENT AND RESILIENT NETWORKS

A clear shift from traditional connectivity to AI-driven, intelligent network infrastructure, where telecom will function as a value-added horizontal powering all sectors. Future networks must be self-optimising, secure, scalable and resilient, capable of supporting real-time, mission-critical and enterprise use cases.

POLICY STABILITY AND SPECTRUM STRATEGY AS CORE ENABLERS

Predictable, forward-looking policy and regulatory frameworks, including adequate spectrum availability and harmonised strategy, are required to sustain long-term investments. Regulatory certainty and continued Government–industry collaboration are critical to support 5G evolution, 6G readiness and overall ecosystem growth.

TRUST, SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AS FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS

Building digital trust is a central priority. The importance of AI-led spam and fraud mitigation, regulatory parity across platforms and robust consumer protection frameworks were visible, positioning trust as a core infrastructure element for the digital economy.

ACCELERATING INDIGENOUS INNOVATION, R&D AND MANUFACTURING

The need to move beyond deployment leadership to innovation leadership is clear. Key focus areas include design-led manufacturing, semiconductor development, indigenous R&D and active participation in global standards, enabling India to emerge as a global digital infrastructure and technology hub.

COLLABORATIVE ECOSYSTEM FOR INCLUSIVE AND GLOBAL DIGITAL LEADERSHIP

India's digital future will be driven by deep collaboration across the Government, industry, global stakeholders and academia. Bridging the usage gap, enabling enterprise digitisation and leveraging India's scale as a global testbed will be critical to achieving inclusive growth and establishing India as a leader in next generation connectivity.



ABOUT COAI

COAI was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society. The Association is dedicated to the advancement of modern communication through the establishment of world-class mobile infrastructure, products and services and to delivering the benefits of innovative and affordable mobile communication services to the people of India.

INDUSTRY POLICY



COAI has emerged as the official voice of the Indian telecom industry that interacts directly with ministries, policy makers, regulators, financial institutions and technical bodies. It provides a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas between these bodies and the service providers, who share a common interest in the development of mobile telephony in the country.

TELECOM ISSUES



COAI collaborates with other industry associations such as CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, GSMA, ISPAI, etc., with the objective of presenting an industry consensus to the Government on crucial issues related to the growth and development of the Indian telecom industry.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES



COAI is determined to encourage the confluence of technologies to facilitate the move towards complete convergence in communications as this could greatly help India mitigate the problems of low fixed line penetration and help realize the country's vision of becoming an Information Society.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



COAI aims to dispense information and spread awareness among the national and international entities and consumers on issues pertaining to service quality and other value-added services provided by the operators to their subscribers.



OUR PARTNERS



PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSOR



LANYARD & DELEGATE KIT SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSOR



KNOWLEDGE PARTNER



SUPPORTED BY



TEAM COAI



FOLLOW US ON



@ coai



@ coai_india



@ ConnectCOAI

**LET US DELIBERATE THE LEARNINGS
@COAI DIALOGUES 2026**