



Technology trends -2019

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In 2018 we got the first ever Digital Communications Policy NDCP 18, which has articulated its objectives along these lines:

Connect India. This aims to create a robust digital communication infrastructure by promoting optical fiber connectivity, deployment of public wi-fi hotspots, making spectrum available and optimal pricing of spectrum, etc.

Propel India. This seeks to enable next-generation technologies and services by taking several steps towards facilitating the deployment of these technologies. Such steps include improving regulatory processes such as the Wireless Planning Cell, promoting research and development, incentivizing domestic technologies and manufacturing.

Secure India. This aims to ensure the security and safety of digital communications through a comprehensive data security regime through steps such as addressing security issues relating to encryption and security clearances, building capacity for security testing and promoting consumer sovereignty through adherence to net neutrality.

The first objective of *Connect India* requires optical fiber connectivity across the nation. This is all the more vital for the viability of 5G network. Fiber

kilometer (fkm) per capita is much less in India compared to several other key markets. The fkm per capita for China with 1.3 billion people is 0.87 whereas that of India with 1.2 billion people is just 0.09 which is about one-tenth of China. In the US and Japan, the per capita fkm is 1.3 and above.

2019 would be an important year for India from a 5G rollout standpoint. The government wishes that the rollout be such that it allows reaping the benefits of better data speeds. 5G has the potential to become a key catalyst especially in adoption of technologies like the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Augmented Reality by industries at grass root levels.

India has the second largest mobile phone user base in the world. Telecom sector plays a vital role in our national agenda. Consolidation of the Indian telecom sector is now complete. The large players are well placed to take the sector on a growth path. This will enable the telecom equipment industry also to do well in 2019. Thus there is a cautious optimism in the equipment industry.

Savitri Group stands to gain from the current technology trends which will help us to grow in all our business areas be it technology solutions, manufacturing, services or infrastructures. ●